LESSON 8 | THURSDAY

Biblical Exposition

QUESTION SCRIPTURE WORD STUDY KEY POINT

LESSON FOCUS: Faithful exposition explains Scripture with Scripture while depending on Christ and the Holy Spirit for understanding.

I. Principles for Biblical Interpretation

- Sunday: Let Scripture interpret itself.
- Monday: Ask the meaning of Scripture in the context of its historical and cultural setting.
- Tuesday: Never isolate a sentence from its argument, story, chapter, or book. Remember: Satan does this.
- Wednesday: Study the words, the literary setting, the historical setting, etc.

II. The Purpose of Biblical Exposition

Q. Once I have read the Word, how do I fully understand it so that I can help someone else understand it?

Two discouraged disciples were walking to Emmaus after the Crucifixion. Jesus joined them, although they did not recognize Him.

Luke 24:25-27, KJV

25 Then he said unto them, O fools (Greek: ah-NO-ay-tos = foolish = not reasoning) and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

- “expounded” = diermēneuō (διερμηνεύω) - pronounced approximately dee-er-may-NYOO-oh - to interpret, translate, or thoroughly explain.

III. Christ Opens the Understanding

Luke 24:44-45, KJV

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

- Had Christ immediately revealed Himself and vanished,
- they would have been denied the chance to walk with Him and study with Him

Understanding Scripture requires more than reading words on a page.

Q. Is this Christ simply studying with them?

Q. Or, by this verb (opened), is Christ actually imparting power to willing minds?

IV. The Spirit Guides Into Truth

John 16:13-14, KJV

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

- So with the men on the road to Emmaus,
- Two things happened:
- Jesus taught from the Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit worked in the hearers.

KEY POINT: Biblical exposition joins Christ-centered teaching, the Word, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you

Literal Greek: You shall receive power, the Holy Ghost having come upon you

A helpful summary is:

Jesus + the Holy Spirit + the Word

= exposition

V. Jesus Explained Scripture With Scripture

- He expounds with Scriptural references.
- As we just saw in Luke 24:27.
- And Here's another example:

Mark 1:14-15, KJV

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Jesus points back to scripture:

Daniel 9:24-27, KJV

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- Daniel's prophecy foretells the time of the Messiah's coming.
- Christ references it
- Faithful exposition uses Scripture to explain Scripture.
- Christ and the Holy Spirit must work in the interpreter and hearer.

VI. Exposition Serves People Who Need Guidance

Acts 8:26-31, KJV

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

- The lesson shows through this example that READING does not necessarily equal UNDERSTANDING. We need guidance.
- And if we pray for it, God will send guidance.

VII. The Expositor Listens Before Speaking

- Verse 26 says an angel of the Lord sent him.
- Greek: angelos (ἄγγελος) = messenger / angel.
- Verse 29 then explicitly says THE SPIRIT directed Philip to the chariot.

KEY POINT: Before Philip explained Scripture, he listened to the Holy Spirit.

VIII. God Uses Ordinary Believers

Philip was an ordinary believer chosen for service in Acts 6 and later used powerfully as an evangelist in Samaria.

God can give ordinary believers understanding and use them to explain His Word.

KEY POINT: Spirit-led exposition changes lives and leads people to salvation.