

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE?

Matthew 5:17-20



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we started a new series on the Word of God with the first week tackling the question: Can we trust the Bible? As we consider why we even ask this question, four reasons that was shared: (1) We are still experiencing the after-effects of the modern era that places an emphasis on a scientific approach (prove it to me) and a dismissal of the supernatural. (2) We are suspicious of authority, specifically institutional authority, and that conveys to the Scriptures as well. (3) We are afraid of fake news and we become more cynical and skeptical of believing in anything. (4) Things just don't make sense to us, and sometimes we read the Scriptures incorrectly.

But if we push aside all presuppositions, there are three different lens that help us affirm the authenticity, truthfulness, and validity of scriptures. From a historical perspective, the science of textual criticism helps us affirm the accuracy of Scriptures. From a cultural perspective, we come to realize that deconstructing our own cultural lens to understand the Scriptures helps greatly in clarify misunderstanding. Lastly, from a philosophical lens, we see that even though Scriptures was composed from over 35 authors over 1,500 years, it does form a cohesive and coherent story.

But most importantly, as we approach scripture - rather than approaching it as judge and jury, we ought to approach it as an apprentice of Jesus. And as students of Jesus, we follow in His way, where He did not come to deconstruct the Scriptures, but to deconstruct the cultural additions and man-made traditions added. As we take scriptures seriously, let's be formed and transformed - allowing the Word of God to disciple us and train us and form us to who we are becoming, so that we might bear fruit in line with the way of Jesus.



OUTLINE

1 FOUR REASONS WE MAY QUESTION RE: THE BIBLE

See Synopsis for the four reasons that we may question the Bible. Though we have more evidence than ever before that Scriptures are trustworthy, there are other reasons we can approach the Bible with suspicion and distrust. We must consider these as well (in addition to the spirit of the age - the demonic forces - that seek to close our eyes to the truth in the Word of God.

2 HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, PHILOSOPHICAL

As we consider the validity of Scripture through a Historical, Cultural, and Philosophical Lens, we come to find that there is a copious amount of evidence for the authenticity and truthfulness of Scripture. Also, we find that we can impose our own cultural lens of our people and our time that may cause us to misunderstand what Scriptures say.

3 BEING FORMED BY SCRIPTURES

Most importantly, we are to be formed by scriptures. When we read the scriptures, it ought to be both informational (left brain activity) and formational (right brain activity). As we go through life being formed, may it be that we treasure and value the Word of God so deeply that we allow it to form us in who we are becoming.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Have you ever experienced miscommunication or misunderstandings due to cultural differences?

2

Sometimes, the crises/issues of our day can shape how we look at scripture. What modern phenomena has impacted your understanding of the Bible?

3

How do you read the Bible? What do you expect when you read the Bible?

4

How can we treat the Bible as informational and formational? Which one do you tend to lean towards?

5

What influences are forming and shaping you right now? What is discipling you right now? What are you being formed by?

6

What is your relationship with the Word of God? A distant cousin or a close friend? Do you treat it as a mean authority figure or a loving parent?



BIG IDEA

Can We Trust the Bible? Over the generations, we have become more skeptical and cynical towards the Word of God and the authority we give it over our lives. We may even doubt how valid and truthful the Bible is. But as we look at the Bible from a historical, cultural, and philosophical lens, we see that there is plenty of evidence that affirms the authenticity of the Bible. At the end of the day, rather than coming to the Bible as judge and jury, let's come to it as an apprentice of Jesus - allowing it to shape and form us into who we are becoming.