

Assignment 2

Describe the 5 steps of the interpretive journey

- . Grasping the text in their town.
- . Measuring the width of the River to cross.
- . Crossing principalising bridge
- . Consulting the Biblical Map.
- . Grasping the text in our town.

What are the guidelines for developing theological principles?

- . What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?
- . What are the differences between Biblical Audience and us?
- . What is the theological principle in the text?
- . How does our theological principle fit with the rest of the Bible?
- . How should Christians today live out the theological principles?

What are the differences that determine the River to cross?

- . Culture
- . Language
- . Time
- . Situation
- . Covenant

What are the guidelines for developing the theological principles?

The guidelines for determining the theological principles are:

- 1.The theological principles should be reflected in the text.
- 2.The theological principles should be timeless and not tied to a specific situation.
- 3.The theological principles should not be culturally bound.
- 4.The theological principle should correspond to the rest of Scripture.
- 5.The theological principles should be relevant to both the Biblical and contemporary audiences.

We are going to look at the theological principle in Psalms 51:10-12.

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God.
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence.
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your Salvation and uphold me by Your generous spirit.

The theological principle in Psalms 51:10-12 is David wanting repentance and wanting God to restore in him the relationship he once had with God.

The theological principle is timeless here, because that's what we all want. After all, we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23) Although it is tied to a specific situation, it isn't, because David committed other sins as well as other Biblical characters in the Narrative, like Moses etc, and God forgave them.

The theological principle should not be culturally bound and it isn't because David sinned, Moses sinned and even the woman caught in adultery sinned, (John 8:11) but Jesus forgave her and according to the law of Moses, she should be stoned which she wasn't, as it says in John 8:5 and the Bible talks of sins which are years apart.

The theological principle should respond to the rest of Scripture. Jesus forgave the woman at the well, God forgave the Israelites, God forgave Jonah at that time for not going to Ninevah straight away. And He forgave many others like David with Bathsheba.

The theological principle should be relevant to both the Biblical audience and to us. It is. When we repent and turn to God with a clean heart, a steadfast spirit, totally focused on asking for forgiveness as David was and turning from our sins, God will forgive us.

What did the text mean to the Biblical Audience?

David wrote this Psalm after Nathan the prophet had gone to him after he sinned with Bathsheba.

David had a repentant heart. And the biblical audience of his day would have known that with this Psalm. David was the king of Israel and Judah.

David was really repentant after sinning with Bathsheba. He wanted God to create in him a clean heart. And to renew a steadfast spirit within him. He didn't want to be cast away from God's presence or for God to take his Holy Spirit from him. David wanted God to restore to him the joy of God's Salvation and David wanted to be upheld by God's generous spirit.

David knew the character of God. He knew that God can take His Spirit from anyone at any time. In 1 Samuel 16:23 God took His Spirit from King Saul and replaced it with a distressing spirit, causing ones to ask for David to play the harp for Saul so that Saul would be refreshed and that the distressing spirit would depart from him.

Also I'm not sure if this is after the David and Bathsheba incident, but David took a census of Israel and God was angry at him for doing so.

"The anger of the Lord burnt against Israel and He incited David against them saying go and take a census of Israel and Judah." 2 Samuel 24:1. 1 Chron 21:1 says it was satan who stood up against Israel and moved David to take the census.

David knew the Scriptures. He would have known of Job and how there was a day when the Angels appeared before the Lord and satan was there. Satan did all sorts of things to Job, with permission from God, then God replaced all his losses.

Although Job's story is written Biblically after David's time, scholars believe that it is slightly after Genesis.

So David knew of the character and love of God. So did the people of his time. Nathan the prophet, who approached David knew God to be merciful and gracious too. Nathan said to David, that God said “Why did you take Bathsheba, a married woman, I would have given you much more if you had asked?” (2 Samuel 12:8-9) (emphasis added).

David wanted God’s Joy again. He says in Psalm 4:7 You have put more joy in my heart, then they have when their grain and wine abound (talking about farmers)

What are the differences between the Biblical Audience and us?

Well, we haven’t the Ark of covenant which was kept in the tabernacle as David had. We have Jesus Christ now, who died for our sins and rose so that we should be forgiven and receive new life through Christ’s Blood.

We are not in war time as David was and we are not the king! David had authority over Israel and Judah and gave orders. He lied and cheated and killed to cover up his sin. People do that today. But God forgives.

What are the theological principles in this text?

The theological principle in this text is that God is a forgiving God and a merciful God. We have to go to him and ask for forgiveness. It is the same for us today as it was for David.

God can take His Holy Spirit from us, if we don’t constantly focus on Him and what He has done for us. We have to read His Word, sing Scriptural songs, listen to sermons and attend Church, as well as pray.

The theological principle in this text is to ask for these things:

- . Ask for God providence
- . Ask for a clean heart
- . Ask for a good conscience
- . Ask for His Holy Spirit in abundance
- . Ask for joy in our heart for the Lord

How do the theological principles fit with the rest of the Bible?

David asked for forgiveness from God. Moses asked from God, forgiveness for the peoples' sin when they made a golden calf (Numbers 14:18-20) Jonah was forgiven (Jonah 2:1,7 and 10) Because God gave Jonah another chance to deliver the message to Ninevah.

How should Christians today live out the theological principle?

The passage of David in Psalm 51:10-12 is so relevant for us today, if we ask God for forgiveness and truly repent, He will forgive us.

God Sent Jesus to die and rise for us so that we should be given New Life on a Paradise Earth. That fits with the whole Bible = Your will be done as it is in Heaven (Matthew 6:10)

Jesus wants us to pray for God's will on earth, how to do His will on earth and also how to receive life on earth after we die. David didn't want to be lost from the will of God. Neither do we.

We should pray like David did and Moses did. Moses prayed for the people. He even asked God to erase his name out of the Book of life for the people. (Exodus 32:31-35) That is like Jesus dying for us. We didn't deserve it, but He did it. The theological principle here is sacrificing ourselves for others. We should do it.

This Psalm was written for us, from David and for all generation that went after him.

What are the differences that determine the width of the river to cross?

The differences that determine the width of the river to Cross involve Culture, Language, Situation, Time and Covenant.

Covenant is we are not under the old one -we don't have to sacrifice animals now. Jesus' sacrifice is what we have now. Before Jesus died and rose again there was no way one could enter a resurrection after death.

Culture is completely different now too. We don't have the Ark of the Covenant or the Temple. We have places of worship, but it isn't cultural in everyday life as it was in Jesus day. Jesus is in our hearts and that is central now to our worship.

Language was different then. Hebrew and Greek, and we being English, are finding it hard to understand: what the Hebrew language means to us. We understand "hell" as eternal torment, but in the Bible, the New Testament NKJV in Luke 16:23 it talks of Hades as eternal torment. We would call that "hell" today as seen in 2 Peter 2:4. In Psalm 8:5 'Sheol' means mankind's common grave. The Psalmist tells of the sorrows of Sheol as being a place he didn't want to go where one goes to die. Sheol is a place where the wicked and righteous go to die. It is never linked with life or any kind of existence but exclusively with death. "Hell" then, the righteous don't go to. Sheol can be heaven or hell. It can be eternal suffering or simply if one is asleep in death.

Time is a determining factor of how wide the River is to cross. The earliest part of the Bible was said to have been written 1400 years before Christ. Wow!

They didn't have cars, mobile phones or what we have. The Jews were a nomadic people dwelling in tents, not houses with electricity like we do today. Then when Jesus came along He criticised the Pharises for not being able to tell the times they were living in but were able to tell the weather. The sky is red in the morning means foul weather (Matthew 16:3)

That passage was difficult for me to understand because we have 7 day weather charts and I just have to look at my mobile phone for what the weather will be like. We have meteorologist who predict sometimes weeks in advance and now their methods of weather forecast are different to what was used then.

Their situation was different to determine the river to cross. They were looking for a promised Messiah. (Luke 2;29-35) Simeon, when he saw the Baby Jesus, he knew who He was!

Now, we have knowledge of His Death and Resurrection and His appearing to over 500 people. (1 Cor 15:6). The differences to covenant, time, situation, culture and language all determine our understanding of the Scriptures .

Chapter 2 of grasping God's Word sees us looking at Scripture differently. The first Scripture I chose to write about was Psalm 51:10-12. Before this assignment I didn't really look at David's sin as a subject for this Psalm. I knew it was but this Psalm is so well quoted, that it could have been anyone's sin really. But the fact that he asked God to create in him a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within him is a prime example of what we must do.

The theological principle here is repentance and we must. The fact that time, culture, covenant, language and situation separate us from really understanding some Scripture, these factors don't separate us from understanding this one. When we read much of the Bible it becomes clear that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb13;8) He was in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The theological principle is the meaning behind the text and what it is all about which is Jesus! Being God's Son and God Our Father Jehovah!