**Understanding the Meaning of a Text**

**Today: *Interpretation & Correlation***

**4 parts to Bible Study:**

**Observation: What does it *say*? Interpretation: What does it *mean*?**

**Correlation: What *other verses* explain it? Application: What *will I DO* about it?**

**John 15: 1-17**

**Problem Verse- v. 6**

**Read it. Then model how to get the right meaning.**

**Heard: *“God doesn't expect us to be successful, just faithful.”* Only ½ right!**

**God expects us to be FRUITFUL!! (one of the great themes of the NT)**

John 15: 1-17 **1**“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2**He cuts off every branch in me that bears no **fruit**, while every branch that does bear **fruit** he prunesso that it will be even more **fruitful**. **3**You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4**Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear **fruit** by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear **fruit** unless you remain in me.

**5**“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much **fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. **6**If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8**This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear **much** fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**9**“As the Father has **loved** me, so have I **loved** you. Now remain in my **love**. **10**If you keep my commands, you will remain in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his **love**. **11**I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12**My command is this: **Love** each other as I have **loved** you. **13**Greater **love** has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14**You are my friends if you do what I command. **15**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear **fruit**—**fruit** that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17**This is my command: **Love** each other.

Read problem verse again. Show how a verse can be misinterpreted if we ignore the rules of interpretation. ILL: TV and Radio preachers: “The fruit of a Christian is another Christian. If you don't bring people to Christ, God will throw you away and you’ll burn in hell.” **Is that what the verse means? *Not at all!* A gross misinterpretation. If that were true, then our salvation is maintained by works, not by grace.**

**Using this passage, I want you to learn…**

**Some Basic Rules of Interpretation (John 15:1-17)**

1. **YOU CONSIDER THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT. WHO is being spoken to? WHY? Ask: What did it mean to them? (The original meaning of the text)**

**John 13-17: Jesus’ final words of comfort to His disciples.**

* **He serves them in an astonishing fashion.**
* **He makes incredible promises to them.**
* **He teaches them His expectations.**
* **He prays for them to be one.**
* **He had invested 3 ½ years in them. He loves them.**
* **He handpicked them.**
* **He wants to spend time with them. Takes them to the upper room. (private)**
* **He is speaking only to them, not a large group.**
* **These are his most trusted followers.**
* **He is concerned for them. *He knows they’re going to be devastated.***

**Read John 13:1-15 (Jesus models serving each other)**

**John 13:1 *“It was just before the Passover feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.* (In other words, he knows he’s going to die on the cross.) *Having loved his own who were in the world,* (the disciples) *he now showed them the full extent of his love.* (So what he’s going to say in chapter 13, 14,15, & 16 is going to show the full extent of God’s love for them and us.) *The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”***

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Context affects the meaning of words.**

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Bearing fruit is produced by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**v. 4 *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”***

* **Bearing fruit brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**v. 8 *“This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be disciples.”***

* **Bearing fruit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**v. 11 *“I’ve told you these things so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”***

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **The purpose of the Bible is to reveal, not conceal.**
* **Eisegesis= *Reading into the text.***
* **Exegesis= *Reading out of the text.***

***Don’t force a meaning, let the Bible speak for itself!***