

### Week #2 – Observation – What do I See?

#### What Observation Requires

1. Observation requires that we learn to read.
2. Observation also requires that we read the Bible as if for the first time.
3. Consequently, observation requires that we read the Bible:
  - a. Thoughtfully – This means to study it; God’s word doesn’t yield fruit to the lazy.
  - b. Repeatedly – Over and over, combined with meditation.
  - c. Patiently – Don’t quit, the outcome is worth it!
  - d. Selectively – Ask these important questions:
    - Who?* ... are the people, what do they say? What is said about them?
    - What?* ... is happening? What is the point of the passage?
    - Where?* ... is this taking place? Consult atlases and maps in necessary.
    - When?* ... is this happening? What time of the day/week/year is it?
    - Why?* ... is this passage here? (*Interpretation*)
    - Wherefore?* ... i.e. what difference does this make in my life? (*Application*)
  - e. Prayerfully – Pray before, during, and after you read.
  - f. Imaginatively – Identify with the passage. Get into it. Don’t be bored!
  - g. Reflectively/Meditatively – Meditate on the word day and night (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119)
  - h. Purposefully – Scripture has a purpose, often it’s clearly written for us to know.
  - i. Acquisitively – In order to receive and retain the word.
  - j. Telescopically – Putting the parts together to understand the meaning of the whole.

## Four Failures of Observation

1. Failure to observe **detail** – Look at every detail. After all, God is in the details ☺
2. Observing things that aren't **there** – We have wild imaginations, just don't let them run too wild! Don't project our culture into that of the Bible.
3. Failure to observe **correctly/accurately** – Don't attempt to tell someone what I don't know myself.
4. Drawing wrong **conclusions**. This results from the previous failures. Again, know what the Bible says and what it *doesn't* say.

## What Else Do I Look For?

1. Things that are...
  - ... **Emphasized** – What is the author stressing?
  - ... **Repeated** – Same terms used over and over.
  - ... **Related** – Similar terms or ideas used over and over.
  - ... **Alike** – Comparison, similes and metaphors.
  - ... **Unlike** – Contrast of terms or ideas.
  - ... **True to Life** – Matches up with reality.
2. The Laws of Structure (see attached Handout)
3. Finally, Carry out the “Three R’s”
  - a. **Read** – Remember, don't browse or “surf” the Bible, read it intently.
  - b. **Record** – Keep a record of your insights and questions. Summarize what you've found.
  - c. **Reflect** – Think about what you've read. Think about what's going on in the passage and how God wants you to apply it

## Home Work Assignments – Week 2:

### #1 – Comparison and Contrast of Mark 5:21-43 (See attached Handout)

Read the account of Mark 5:21-43 closely (this story deals with Jairus' daughter and the bleeding woman). Using the *Comparison and Contrast Charts*, carefully note similarities between Jairus' daughter and the bleeding woman. This will require some time. Answers for this exercise will be available next week!

### #2 – Studying the “Four Soils” of Matthew 13:1-23

Read Matthew 13:1-23 (the Parable of the Soils) and write down observations about the soils. How does Jesus describe each type of soil? What kind of growth took place? What hindered the growth? The following table will help get you started. Much like the exercise for Mark 5, this assignment will test your skills in observing an entire passage of Scripture.

Soils	Description	Growth	Hindrances	Results

## Next Week: Interpretation – What Does it Mean?, Part 1

What Interpretation Looks at

What Interpretation Requires