

Women and Jesus – Ben White (10/6/19)

Opening verses to read:

- Luke 24: 1 – 12 – What does it mean that a group of trusted women were the one that initially brought the message of the risen Jesus? What does it mean that the men did not believe them?
- Luke 10: 38 – 42 – Sitting at the feet of Jesus is a term used from the 1st century for the disciples of Rabbis (not a Bible study). Disciples in the 1st century did the following (typically):
 - Memorized the teacher's words
 - Adopted the teacher's interpretation of scripture
 - Imitated the teacher's ministry model
 - Multiplied the teacher's teaching by making disciples of their own.
- Luke 8: 1-3 – What is said by Jesus' ministry being financed by women?
- Matthew 6: 27-28
- Mark 2: 23-28 – What does this tell us about how Jesus reads scripture?

Background:

Growing up in a very conservative church. These are the rules...the purpose of Christianity is to follow them, and then you get to go to heaven. Most lessons were from either the N.T. letters or Old Testament.

Moving to NOLA in my mid-20's. Going to Carrollton Ave. C of C. Suddenly heard sermons about Jesus. Really enjoyed Carrollton and began to have a new understanding of church and religion.

Moved to Houston in 2013. Searched for a new church. Figured out that I was mentally locked into C of C. Concerned about raising kids in a church similar to what I grew up in. Realized that I knew my position about the Bible, but only b/c it was what people told me. I could even argue the Bible, but did I understand it?

Decided to read the Bible with no preconceived notions about what I believed it said. Blown away by what I found in the Gospels and Acts!

- Didn't contain much about corporate worship (which was a main focus area growing up)
- Jesus is very concerned about how we treat each other, especially the disadvantaged
- Jesus gets upset at groups of people who blindly follow rules that hurt others.

Continued through the letters...but began having issues with how some of the letters dealt with situations. Couldn't align them with Jesus. Struggled with this for about 2 years, trying to read more to learn how I should handle my interpretation.

Insights following this struggle:

- Jesus is focused on intent...follow the WHY, not the WHAT.

- The letters were example of early Christians implementing the WHY in their own time and place. Paul was turning the WHY into a WHAT for the 1st century church.
- It's not about more knowledge, it's about trust and wisdom.

Based on this, the argument that some things in the Bible are purely cultural (and do not need to be applied today) seems to be the wrong question to ask. Everything is cultural and everything is spiritual. The question we should ask is WHY IS THE WRITER SAYING THIS.

Example: 1 Timothy 2:9: Also, the women are to dress themselves in modest clothing, with decency and good sense, not with elaborate hairstyles, gold, pearls, or expensive apparel.

WHY is Paul saying this? Example at Carrollton Ave, dressed much better than the other people b/c I had more money...what message am I indirectly sending when I do this?

Situations with women teaching men (is this sin):

- Sarah Barton in Africa, baptizing a group of men and then telling them that she can no longer teach.
- Beth Moore lesson being taught with a man in attendance...is this sin?
- Woman leading a small rural church, but not the leader b/c she was not named "Elder."

Personal question for myself when I had a daughter: Why does God see her differently than my sons?

Reading the Bible with Andrew: "Don't tell secrets," red flag and discussing how to take rules that you read in the Bible. If the secret is hurting people, tell it!

How I grew up understanding rules: lowest common denominator wins (the most restrictive). Is this how Jesus would have seen it?

READ OUT LOUD:

My intention is to follow God with all of my ability, which means constantly trying to love my neighbor, my enemy, and God. If I make a mistake while doing so because I misinterpreted something, but I erred on the side of trying to bring more people to God, then I have no concern about where my salvation stands with God. We will all make mistakes, God expects that.