

A High View

Read John 5:24-30 ...

Recently this quote came to my attention in a book that seeks to describe five different ways that people use when approaching the Scriptures, to discern the meaning therein, and find application for their own life and times. One of the authors was speaking from a grammatico-historical interpretative method which, as the name suggests, seeks to understand how the language of the time is used and the historical situation. Understanding those two aspects of the scriptural record will then form a foundation from which responsible interpretation of the text can be made. The author then observed this about those with a “high view of Scriptures;”

“They will look for examples to imitate, commands to obey, promises to claim, dangers to avoid, truths to believe, and praises or prayers to offer to God.”

In this statement one recognizes the method of Jesus as He interacted with ... well ... just about everyone – from the Apostles on one side to the Jewish sects on the other. From the statement made above, this would indicate that Jesus had a high view of the Scriptures and used those scriptures to influence His decisions, interactions, and (what we would term) theology.

Examples and commands are the easier of the set to observe. Jesus appealed to the example of the Priests working in the Temple on the Sabbath to show His disciples had authority to “work” on that day by picking grain (Matt. 12:1-9). Also Jesus appealed to historical events to teach a lesson about the need for repentance in the face of God’s judgment (Matt. 11:21; Luke 13:1-5). Appealing to commands was also part of Jesus’s hermeneutical method. During His temptations in the wilderness Jesus answered Satan with direct commands from the

OT, as recorded in the Synoptic Gospels. Of significant import for the contemporary Christian, Jesus also appeals to imperatives in the OT to highlight the command to love and serve God only, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself (Matt. 22:36-40).

Along with appealing to examples and commands, Jesus also recognized that there were promises to be claimed when He used metaphors to liken Himself to bread, light, or a vine (John 6:35; 8:12; 15:5). When considering dangers to be avoided Jesus used a very familiar literary device – reversal of fortune – to help those He taught to appreciate how the actions of this life effect the position in the next (Luke 16:14-31). Again, when thinking about truths to be believed Jesus tells a series of parables that were designed to describe the importance and growth of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 13:18-33). Jesus may not have recounted specific prayers and praises from the OT, but one can obviously see the weight Jesus placed upon the importance of God the Father in both His prayers and actions (Matt. 26:36-56; Mark 11:15-18; etc.).

The record of the Gospels shows Jesus, by His communications and actions, placing a premium on the words of the Scriptures – from helping others understand how to rightly divide the word (Matt. 5-7), to appealing to the Scriptures in an effort to help others understand who He was (John 5:39), and by living the prophecy of the Scriptures in the most difficult time of His life (Mark 15). Jesus certainly used a method to interpret those scriptures that applied to Him and His ministry, we should seek to do the same to understand how we should act and what we should believe as the Church of Christ.

The Needs of the Many

There are _____ that everyone needs.

**** Everyone needs someone that cares enough to
_____ for them.**

When Paul was writing this, or shortly thereafter, _____
would be the Emperor of Rome.

Even more wonderful, _____ thought _____ were
important to pray for.

**** Everyone needs a God that is willing to take them
_____ regardless of their trespasses.**

This is nothing less than the parable of the _____
_____ (Luke 15) applied to us.

James 4:10 – “_____ yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and
He will _____ you up.”

**** Everyone needs Jesus Christ as their _____.**

John 14:6 – “I am the _____, the _____, and the
_____.”

The Gospel is the power of God for _____.

**** Everyone needs to hear the message of the
_____.**

1 Corinthians 2:2 – “For I determined not to know anything among
you except _____ and Him crucified.”

This means that someone is going to have to _____ up!