

- Jesus knew OT Scripture was also powerful and *must* be fulfilled.
 - Isaiah 61 applied to him (Lk. 4:17-21), Psalm 41 explained his betrayal (Jn. 13:18); Isaiah 53 applied to his suffering (Lk. 22:37), Psalm 22 explained what was happening on the cross (Matt. 27:46)
 - OT *must* be fulfilled (Matt. 26:54, Lk. 22:37, 24:44, Jn. 15:25)

Jesus and the Apostle's Words

- Jesus entrusted a world-wide mission to his disciples (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8).
- Jesus promised the Spirit would guide them into all truth (Jn. 16:13) and bring to remembrance all Jesus said (Jn. 14:26).
- Jesus had much to say about words his disciples would say:
 - People will keep their word like Jesus' word (Jn. 15:20)
 - Rejecting their words brings judgment (Mt. 10:14-15)
 - The Spirit of God will speak through them (Mt. 10:19-20) so
 - they should proclaim what Jesus says to them (Mt. 10:26-27)
 - People will believe in Jesus through their word (Jn. 17:20)
 - Gospel proclamation will reach the whole world by the end of age (Mt. 24:14, 28:19-20) – which requires a written apostolic testimony

The Appropriate Response to Scripture

- Jesus rebuked those who explained God's word away (Mt. 5) in favor of traditions (Mk. 7) or who were hypocritical (Mt. 23:3).
- Rather, one should receive & live by the Word (Lk. 8:15, Mt. 4:4)
- Response to the Word matters eternally (Mt. 7:24-27; Lk. 11:28)

“How a person responds to the word of God, spoken by Jesus or written in the Scriptures, has serious consequences.” ~ TDOS, p. 59

A Look Ahead at Next Week

- What it means that we have a God who speaks.

Goal: Grow in our understanding of the doctrine of Scripture, be equipped to answer objections, and to better learn how to read and understand the Bible.

Sources: Quotes indicated as “TDOS” are from Mark Thompson, *The Doctrine of Scripture: An Introduction* (Crossway, 2022); quotes indicated as “SS” are from John Meade & Peter Gurry, *Scribes & Scripture: The Amazing Story of How We Got the Bible* (Crossway, 2022). Lesson 2 draws heavily from TDOS, chapter 1.

Scripture: Theology, Text & Transmission

Class 2: Jesus & Scripture

Review

This class is focusing on the doctrine of Scripture: what do we believe that Scripture is? How trustworthy is the Bible? How do we know we have the right books in the Bible? Do we know the text we have is the same as what the early church had? What should we think about the many Bible translations available today?

Last week we spent some time looking at what sort of doctrine (or teaching) of Scripture that this class will pursue: a doctrine that is “Christ-focused, biblically shaped, and grounded in the person and work of the triune God” (TDOS, p. 31).

Jesus: The Embodiment of God's Self-Revelation

If we are to know what God wants us to know about the Scripture, we can do no better than to go to Jesus. He is:

- Image of the Invisible God, and Creator – Col. 1:15-16
- The Word of God makes God known - Jn. 1:1-3, 14, 18
- The Final Word spoken to Mankind from God – Heb. 1:1-2
- The Revealer of the Father – Matt. 11:27-28

What was Jesus' attitude toward Scripture? How did he view and use the Old Testament?

The Final Appeal in Matters of Faith and Faithful Living

- At the beginning of Jesus' ministry – he demonstrated living by God's word (Matt. 4:4) in his standing against temptation by appealing to Deuteronomy three times.
- Scripture settles questions and defends/explains his actions:
 - John the Baptist's identity (Matt. 11:10)
 - Casting out moneychangers at the temple (Matt. 21:13)
 - Disciples eating picked grain on Sabbath (Matt. 12:3)

- Disciples' betrayal/forsaking of him (Matt. 26:24, 31)
- Grounds of divorce (Matt. 19:4-5)
- Action needed for eternal life (Luke 10:25-27ff.)
- The Bible explains Jesus' ministry – he was fulfilling Scripture:
 - Mk. 1:15, Luke 4:21, Matt. 5:17
 - Jn. 3:14, 13:18; Luke 24:25-27, 45

Jesus Claimed Scripture is the Word of God

- Jesus' own words were given to him by his Father
 - John 8:28, 12:49, 17:8
- Words from Genesis with no speaker have God's authority
 - Mt. 19:4-5 quoting Gen. 2:24
- Jesus held that God indeed spoke in Exodus 3:6 – “Have you not read what was said to you by God...” Matt. 12:31
- The fifth commandment was “the word of God” which is made void by the Pharisees' tradition (Mark 7:12-13)
- Against a charge of blasphemy, Jesus quotes Ps. 82:6 and identifies Scripture as the word of God (John 10:33-36)

“By both implication and direct identification, Jesus treated the Old Testament as the word of God.” ~ TDOS, p. 43

Jesus on the Double Agency of Scripture

- Scripture is God's word yet humans are “consciously and creatively involved [in authoring Scripture]” (TDOS, p. 43).
- Jesus spoke of the word of Moses (Luke 20:37), David (Luke 20:42), Isaiah (Mk. 7:6) or Daniel (Matt. 24:15).
- *How can God and David both be authoring a text of Scripture?* Jesus did not explain in detail, but we do learn that the Spirit was involved: Matt. 22:42-43ff.

Jesus and the Intelligibility of Scripture

- Jesus assumed people should have read, understood, believed & obeyed the Bible – he often asked “*Have you not read?*”
 - Matt. 12:1-3, 5, Matt. 19:3-9, Mk. 12:10.

- The parable of the sower reveals more than just the clarity of the word is involved in how people receive the Word (or not) – Matt. 13:18-22, (see also Jn. 8:43-47)

“It was what they brought to the text, rather than a lack of clarity in the text itself, that prevented them from hearing with understanding.” ~ TDOS, p. 46

Jesus and the Truthfulness of Scripture

- Jesus came to bear witness to the truth (Jn. 18:37) and his word lets one know the truth that will set you free (Jn. 8:31-32)
- God is true (Jn. 8:26) & Jesus told us God's truth (Jn. 8:40), in fact God's word is truth (Jn. 17:17)
- It is therefore significant that Jesus accepted OT history as reliable and true (rather than mere parables he might tell):
 - Abel's murder (Matt. 23:35), Noah & the flood (Matt. 24:37)
 - Sodom's judgment and Lot's wife (Luke 17:26-32)
 - David and shewbread (Mt. 12:3-4), Solomon's wisdom (Mt. 12:42)
 - Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (Luke 4:25-26)
 - Jonah and the whale (Matt. 12:39-41)
- Jesus' final word on this: “Scripture cannot be broken” (Jn. 10:35)

Jesus and the Sufficiency of Scripture

- For Jesus, “‘It is written’ carries all the connotations of ‘this is sufficient; the matter is settled.’” (TDOS, p. 50)
 - “*If it was ever true that.... ..it remains so.*” (see for example: Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; Matt. 19:4-6, etc.)
- Parable of Rich Man & Lazarus shows Scripture is enough (Lk. 16:31)
- Scripture serves a purpose – pointing to Jesus (Luke 16:16) – and by his work salvation was truly accomplished. Scripture testifies of this.

“Jesus did not claim all-sufficiency for Scripture but affirmed its sufficiency for the purpose for which it was given.” ~ TDOS, p. 53

Jesus and the Efficacy of Scripture

- Jesus' own words are powerful. With just a word he:
 - Stilled the storm (Mk. 4:39), banished evil and sickness (Mt. 8:13), Mk. 1:25, 5:8, 34), raised the dead (Mk. 5:41, Lk. 7:14, Jn. 11:43)
- Jesus' words did achieve his intended effect in people (Jn. 17:6-8)