

MAN IN THE MIRROR BIBLE STUDY
Series: A Mans Guide to the Bible

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Good Morning, Men!

Open your Bibles to John 4.

So in the series finale of 24, the President of the United States has negotiated world peace with Russia and the IRK. The Russians secretly plot and kill the President of the IRK and his widow takes over as acting President and the President of the United States finds out about the complicity of the Russians and the assassination and she covers that up. The widow finds out about the cover up; on her way to confront the U.S. President about the conspiracy, she walks into the Oval office and is about to utter words of confrontation and my wife says: she just changed her earrings. Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh!

We need to get together and study the Bible as men because look men really do take a different look at things than women.

So we are doing a MAN'S guide to the Bible. No Women Allowed! You don't see any earrings on that guy.

Today we are doing a shout out to First Men, about 20 men that meet at the First Methodist Church of Orlando and they are doing the web cast and have been meeting for about a year and a half. A really cool group of guys that have given away books by the box on Mother's and Father's day. Chris Myers is the leader of the group; welcome them with me this morning!

This is the deal; we are doing a man's guide to the bible. The whole idea is to give you more confidence in the Bible you have in your hands. I was thinking this week that it is kind of like – is my mind really satisfied that this really is the word of God? Once I get to the point that I am actually truly satisfied that I have it, that all the sudden the faith unleashes my mind to apprehend and pursue the information in the Bible in a whole different way.

We are doing it in three parts: About the Bible, Knowing the Bible and Living the Bible. Today we are talking about the two testaments. We are going to talk about the similarities and differences between the Old and New Testaments.

John 4:25, 26; but I want to start at verse 19. This is the story of the woman at the well. This is kind of like Jesus creating the bridge between the Old and the New.

Jesus recounts this woman's sins and she says

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus

declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

There is so much richness, so much depth and so much mystery to be yielded in that scripture.

Christianity is what it is and it is described in here. Bishop William Temple once said conversion is to give as much of yourself as you can to as much of God as you can understand. Those of us that read that text and not able to plum the depths should feel fine with that. Take the God that you understand and apply it. The idea of what the Bible is the more you study and find the inner connections, the deeper and richer it becomes.

The verses I want to focus on are verses 25 & 26; this is the bridge between the Old and New Testaments.

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Here was this great sense of expectation; she knew and if you lived in that culture you would have been waiting for a savior to come; someone to rescue you from your oppressors.

We talk about the results of American Idol at our dinner meetings and they would talk about the coming messiah. In fact this is in a Hebrew prayer book, it says,

I believe with a fervent heart that the messiah will come, and although his coming is delayed I will still wait patiently for his speedy appearance.

The Jews don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah so they are still waiting.

That is the sentiment they have been talking about forever.

26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Oh my goodness! Jesus was acutely aware that he was the Messiah and he had the very distinct impression that the whole Testament was about him. Why?

I realized I am trying to write a book and give these talks at the same time, so there is a lot more in the book than the talks. Lot of scripture supports this; Jesus says the scriptures point to me John 5:39. We will look at some others later.

What do the Old and New Testaments have in common? They have in common this Messiah thread.

This is the perspective of the week: The Old and New Testaments are like two pieces of a treasure map, neither complete without the other. Both presenting the same message from different perspectives; anticipation from the Old Testament yields to fulfillment in the New Testament, the Christ of prophecy becoming the Christ of History.

And the Big idea for the day: The Old Testament promises that a king will come to save his people and the New Testament proclaims that king is Jesus.

We are looking at the similarities and differences between the Old and New Testament. Right now we are looking at what they have in common. It is interesting, we all have heard that the Old

Testament is the story of an angry God and the New Testament is the story of the God of love. A lot of people, probably in this room, would agree with that statement. Actually God is as full of wrath in the New Testament as He is in the Old Testament. And God is as full of love in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament. (Romans 1 and Exodus 34)

In fact there is Chesed, a Hebrew word and is translated as love. The word love we use is not the love that Chesed is. The love that God has for the plot of the Bible: Loving father relentlessly pursues relationship with children.

That is a little bit about what they have in common. That brings up the question, what is new about the New Testament?

Turn with me to Luke 16:16, what is new about the New Testament is that there is a distinct break in the story.

6 "The Law and the Prophets (Old Testament) were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

So you see this distinct break and now the kingdom of God is near and that is what makes the New Testament new.

There are six things worth mentioning that are new:

1. the new covenant (Hebrews 9:15)
2. the inclusion of the gentiles
3. The good news of the kingdom of God, that it has been ushered in
4. the Holy Spirit is now for all believers
5. the new commandment (love one another as I have loved you)
6. the great commission (go and make disciples)

This is what is new about the New Testament. You have the Old and they have a lot of things in common, we have the Messianic thread: the anticipation and expectation of a king. Then in the New Testament we have the fulfillment of that anticipation. We have an angry loving God in the Old and the New Testament. We have repetitive sacrifice in the Old and the one uber sacrifice in Jesus in the New Testament. As a result of that all of these new things come about.

If I remember correctly there was something like 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the New Testament. It is impossible and remarkable and should give you a great sense of confidence that he is the Messiah.

The big idea: The Old Testament promises a king who will come to save his people. The New Testament proclaims that king is Jesus.

Just think about how important this New Testament is. Imagine if you had watched the entire final season of 24 and then forgot to record the final session and didn't know how the story ended. How frustrating would that be? Or imagine you bought a book – a rip roaring story – and you get to the last page and realize that you are missing the last 25% of the book. That would be the New Testament.

The Bible is not two books about one subject; it is one book with two parts.

Now that we have the New Testament what do we do with the Old Testament?

Here are six reasons we keep the Old Testament:

1. Jesus said he came to fulfill not abolish the law.
2. the Law and the Prophets are no longer proclaimed
3. we are no longer under the supervision of the law
4. but the law remains in full force and effect.

Look at Luke 16:17 Jesus says:

17 It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law. 18 "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The point is that the Law remains in full force and effect

5. the Law leads us to Christ to be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24

24 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. 25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

6. everything in the Law about Jesus must be fulfilled.

So the gospel has to be preached throughout the whole world then the end will come? And then Christ will come again to gather the elect. Only those he chose. Jesus said before Abraham was born, I am. He is the Creator. He is one with the father and was there at creation. As the Holy Spirit was hovering over the dark waters, Jesus was there and you were on his mind. Before that you were on his mind. He knew your name and every breath you would take. The story of all of this is here in this book we call the Bible.

The Old Testament is very integral to our faith and it can give you great confidence that the Old Testament is a place we ought to spend some time because of what Jesus has said about it.

And so the application, turn with me to Luke 24:44; knowledge is power. When you have a problem with computers and you don't know much about computers, what do you feel? You feel powerless. It is the same way with the word of God; if you have a problem in your life and don't know much about the manual you feel powerless. The application is basically just take the word and read it. Make sure to include the Old Testament.

What would you think if you got the times wrong on a movie you wanted to see? You thought it started at 2pm and it actually started at 1pm. You walk in and are surprised to see you are an hour late and have missed most of the movie. You will have a hard time catching up, even if you do start to catch on, the assumptions you make of what happened in the first hour will probably be guess work.

We don't have to guess because we have the whole word of God in front of us.

Luke 24:44

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

What are the scriptures about? Well the Old Testament is promising that a great king will come and save his people from their sins. And the New Testament tells us that this king is Jesus, King Jesus. And those are the similarities and differences in the Old and New Testaments.

We focus here on an application oriented Bible study. I was trying to think about what today's application would be; knowing this information is the application. Because God can superintend to our hearts, if we let him, and give us this deep satisfying confidence that this really is the word of God.

Let's Pray;

Our dearest father we come humbly to you our great God, we thank you Jesus that you have revealed yourself to us in the scriptures and to our hearts. Even back when you hovered over the waters and the darkness of the unformed earth, you knew who we were and we were on your hearts, and you loved us from eternity past. You have given us this great book to give us the knowledge of your self. Open our eyes and teach us what is in your scriptures. We ask this in your name, amen.