

20 January 2021
How Lutherans Engage Scripture
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Welcome/Prayer

Last Time: Lectio Divina – Latin for sacred reading

Method developed during early Church 100-450 ad

4 Steps

Step One: Lectio – reading/listening to the text

Step Two: Meditatio – meditating/reflecting/ruminating on the text

Step Three: Oratio – responding with prayer

Step Four: Contemplatio – contemplative prayer

History

Acknowledgment that the Bible is an ancient text

Biblical Texts are shaped by these people, places and times

More we understand of their world view, the deeper insights we can have

Profound need to understand those times

Old Testament

New Testament

Only by understanding their times, can we apply the text to our times

Historical Readings

Answers the questions of who, what, why and where

Focus on the plain meaning of the text

Key Questions

What do we know about the author, about who wrote the passage?

Do we know to or for whom this passage was written?

Why was this text written or what situation is being addressed?

When was this text written and what do we know about that period of history?

Where was this text written and what do we know about that part of the ancient world?

What implied political and social realities could shed light on this text?

How is this text similar to other ancient stories or texts that might shed light on its meaning?

What things do we know about the ancient world that might help us to read and understand this text?

Old Testament

Very Careful passing on of the Jewish Tradition

2 Kings 22-23, 2 Chronicles 34: Mention of a Book

Date 621 BC during King Josiah

Torah: 400 BC

Prophets: 400 BC

Hymns/History: On Going to New Testament Period

90 AD After the Destruction of the Temple

2nd Esdras 14:44-46

Context

Reformation: Going Back to Roots

Retention of Identity: Never forget

Babylonian Exile and Restoration: How do we understand?

Coming Messiah: Restoration of David's Line

New Testament

New Church: 1 Church loosely associated.

Two fold pattern

Bishops/Presbyters: Teachers, Preachers

Deacons: Management, Social Ministry

Church begins to slowly define itself

Oral Tradition

Passing of the story verbally

Expectation of Jesus' return

1 Generation passed away drive to preserve the stories

Point of Conflict: Middle 2nd Century

Marcion: God of Old Testament was evil

Only God of Jesus was good

Only recognized a few books of the Bible

Declared a heretic by the church - lead to conversation about the canon

Criteria for the New Testament Canon was developed

APOSTOLIC written by an apostle

CATHOLIC relevant to the entire church

ORTHODOX did not contradict church's teaching

TRADITIONAL USE used from the earliest days of the church

Inspiration was not a criterion

3 and 4th Century

Eusebius of Caesarea

Agreement on the books of the New Testament

Athanasius: Bishop of Alexandria

First to publish a list of the accepted books in New Testament

Matthew 21:23–32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell

me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Historical Reading

Matthew's Context

Intended Recipient of Jesus' Words

Authority Issue

Historical Reading Tips

Ask the historical question: Who, What, Why and Where

Office of Pastor: That's what we do!

Use Good Resources: Study Bible and Library

Keep digging: Plain Meaning of Text

Questions – Email me arthur.bergren@stpaulswaverly.org

Next Time: Literary Reading