Week 3: Observation: Content

January 26, 2020 – Further Observations

Discussion: Method in Bible study is structured and systematic, thoughtful and thorough

- Aren’t “methodical” and “spiritual” mutually exclusive terms?
- No, the Holy Spirit must illuminate the mind in order for understanding to occur (1 Corinthians 2:10-15, Romans 12:1-2)
- Just as we talk about inspiration, this week we need to talk a little about illumination.
- I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **Studying the Scriptures involves performing specific steps in a specific order to achieve a specific result.**

**The purpose of all Bible study is life-change**

- As you get to know the Word of God, you get to know the God of the Word
- As you get to know the God of the Bible and thoughtfully apply His Word to your self and your circumstances, your life will change
- You cannot know the God of the Bible without being changed by His Holy Spirit
Review: OIA (see OIA Bookmark)

Observe - "What Does it Say?"
Interpret - "What Does it Mean?"
Apply - "How does it Work?"

Review: Keys to Perceptive Observation:

Content
~ Last Week: who, what, when, where, why, how
~ This Week: flow of passage/outline, literary Forms

Context
~ next week

Discussion: Article 2: Sherlock Holmes – What We Can Learn from a Felt Hat
-- excerpt from The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

TEST YOUR AWARENESS

First read the sentence enclosed in the box below

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF MANY YEARS.

Now count the F’s in the sentence. Count them only once and do not go back and count them again.

**ANSWER:** most say 3, but answer is 6

– we naturally miss “of”
**Group Exercise: Test Your Reading Skills**

### THE CASH REGISTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructions</th>
<th>The Story</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read the story and answer the statements true, false or unknown.</td>
<td>The businessman had just turned off the lights in the store when a man appeared and demanded money. The owner opened a cash register. The contents of the cash register were scooped up, and the man sped away. A member of the police force was notified promptly.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answers</th>
<th>Questions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>? 1)</td>
<td>A man appeared after the owner has turned off his store lights.</td>
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<tr>
<td>? 2)</td>
<td>The robber was a man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T 3)</td>
<td>The man did not demand money.</td>
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<td>? 4)</td>
<td>The man who opened the cash register was the owner.</td>
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<td>? 5)</td>
<td>The store owner scooped up the contents of the cash register and ran away.</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 6)</td>
<td>Someone opened the cash register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? 7)</td>
<td>After the man who demanded the money had scooped up the contents of the cash register, he ran away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? 8)</td>
<td>While the cash register contained money, the story does not state how much.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>? 9)</td>
<td>The robber demanded money of the owner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>? 10)</td>
<td>The story concerns a series of events in which only three persons are referred to: the owner of the store, a man who demanded money, and a member of the police force.</td>
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<tr>
<td>? 11)</td>
<td>The following events in the story are true: someone demanded money, a cash register was opened, its contents were scooped up, and a man dashed out of the store.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Steps toward reading with Observation in mind

Read Prayerfully
Start with Adoration
Move to Confession
Continue with Thanksgiving
Conclude with Supplication (or Petition)

Read Repeatedly
Use different translations
Read it in a different setting
Be careful about becoming too familiar with the text

Read Purposefully
Seek to answer the following questions:
Who?
What?
When?
Where?
Why?
How?

Read Imaginatively

Read Meditatively
Meditation in Eastern religions means emptying your mind; in the Bible it means filling your mind with the truth of God’s Word
Mull it over as you go through the rest of the day
Goes along with Read Repeatedly
See it for the first time

The greatest deterrent to observation is the notion that you’ve already seen this passage before

Do whatever it takes to open your eyes anew to the passage

Read it aloud
Read it with a new believer
Read it with a child
Read it in a new version

Example:
One Sunday morning the fourth grade Sunday school teacher asked one of her students, "Johnny, what’s brown and furry and eats nuts?" Johnny replied, "I know the answer's Jesus, but it sure sounds like a squirrel to me."

Looking for Literary Structures

The Laws of Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAW</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cause and Effect</td>
<td>One event, concept, or action that causes another (key terms: therefore, so, then, as a result)</td>
<td>Mark 11:27-12:44</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Romans 1:24-32;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8: 18-30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climax</td>
<td>A progression of events or ideas that climb to a certain high point before descending</td>
<td>Exodus 40:34-35</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 Sam. 11</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark 4:35-5:43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison</td>
<td>Two or more elements that are alike or similar (key terms: like, as, too, also)</td>
<td>Psalm. 1:3-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John 3:8, 12, 11</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hebrews. 5:1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td>Two or more elements that are unlike or dissimilar (key terms: but, yet)</td>
<td>Psalm 73</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acts 4:32-5:11</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gal. 5:19-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explanation or reason</td>
<td>The presentation of an idea or event followed by its Interpretation</td>
<td>Dan. 2, 4, 5 , 7-9</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark 4:13-20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acts 11:1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAW</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interchange:</td>
<td>When the action, conversation, or concept moves to another, then back again</td>
<td>Gen. 2:4-25; 3 Josh. 12 Matt. 6:1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction &amp; summary</td>
<td>Opening or concluding remarks on a subject or situation</td>
<td>2 Sam. 11-12 Matt. 12 Acts 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pivot or hinge</td>
<td>A sudden change in the direction or flow of the context; a minor climax</td>
<td>Gen. 1-11; 12-50 Luke 9:51-19:27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion</td>
<td>Emphasis indicated by the amount of space the writer devotes to a subject</td>
<td>Eph. 5:21-6:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>A declaration of the author’s intentions</td>
<td>John 20:30-31 Acts 1:8 Titus 1:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question &amp; answer</td>
<td>The use of questions or questions and answers</td>
<td>Malachi Mark 11:27-12:44 Luke 11:1-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repetition</td>
<td>Terms or phrases used two or more times</td>
<td>Ps. 136 Matt. 5:21-48 Hebrews 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific to general,</td>
<td>Progression of thought from a single example to a general principle, or vice</td>
<td>Matt. 6:1-18 Acts 1:8 James 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>general to specific</td>
<td>versa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Adapted from an unpublished chart by John Hansel. Used by permission

**Today’s Study:** Ephesians 1:15-23 *(Page 2, Line 18 – Page 2, Line 30)*

**Home Study:** Ephesians 2:1-10 *(Page 3, Line 31 – Page 3, Line 43)*

Read: Article 3 “The Groggle”
For this reason, (i.e. because God has done all the above) ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know

1) the hope to which he has called you
2) the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints and
3) his incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when
- he raised him from the dead and
- seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, Far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And
- God placed all things under his feet and
- appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.
OBSERVATION: Walk Through Passage:

For This Reason: For what Reason? - because of what God has done!

Prayer: First praise God, then thanks for people’s faith and love, then petition
Prayer: not ceasing
Prayer: God needs to give what He will ask for

What does He ask for?

- Wisdom of revelation ... In Knowledge ... of Him
- Eyes of Heart enlightened - NOT head knowledge!
- So you would know:
  (Note: not asking for new blessing, but to know what already have)

1) HOPE of CALLING

What calling? Calling on Page 1 -
Belong to, in fellowship with Jesus
To be saints - faithful in the Lord
Called to Freedom
Called to live worthy of calling
To be holy and blameless
To His Kingdom

To: Christ and Holiness, Freedom and Peace, Suffering and Glory

2) RICHES of INHERITANCE - indeed Glorious Inheritance

What Inheritance? HIS - God’s inheritance in the saints

Calling points back to beginning, this points ahead to
Rich, glorious riches, of inheritance God putting together

3) GREATNESS of POWER - indeed immeasurable power

Call points back, Inheritance ahead - Power in between!

What Power?
Immeasurable power

Power WITHIN US!
(Not out there somewhere, or needing to be gotten, but already in us)

But what Power is it? He has not said yet, so now he elaborates:
Power: According to His great might

Power of God’s Great might, shown when he accomplished:

1) Raised Christ from dead (not just conquer death, raised to greater life)

2) Seated Him at God’s Right Hand (honor and authority)
   - heavenly place
   - above all rule and authority, power and dominion
     - in this age and the next! (Not just human universe)

3) Put all things under His feet

4) Made Him head over all things

Why did He do all this?

For the CHURCH!
- His Body
  - Fullness of Him who fills all in all
  Church is Fullness of God, Church is why He did all this!

INTERPRETATION:

- Paul sees God, and what He has done, and prays God help us see it to

- Here God brings together Enlightenment & Thought, Knowledge & Faith

- Paul does not look for something new, but the power of us seeing what is Already true in Christ and in us

Application:

- do you KNOW, truly know in your heart, the

  HOPE that is in the calling of God
  RICHES that are in God’s Glorious inheritance in the Saints
  POWER, the incomparably great power IN US who believe?

- God desires for you to see and know these things intimately
- He has done all He has done for the church, so we might know Him like this

- Will you pray this prayer for yourself and others in the room here?

PRAY {either leader or people at table pray for each other in the words of this prayer}