

MOSAIC: CONNECTING WITH GOD AND OTHERS  
READING THE BIBLE RELATIONALLY  
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Luke 7:36-49 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17  
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Many of us tend to approach the Scriptures as a Book to be dissected and analyzed rather than a Story that is intended to intertwine our heart, soul and mind. The Bible story flows with ongoing revelation that forever nudges us toward a never-ending likeness to Christ.

The ultimate purpose of God's revelation of Himself to man is to provide a means by which man can intimately know and eternally fellowship with God.

Remember, the Bible is not necessarily written for the head. It was written for the heart.

Three purposes of profitable Biblical truth are unveiled in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Teaching equates with doctrine. Scripture is profitable for revealing the truth regarding what we should believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, man, salvation, the church, etc.

Teaching answers the question: "What should I believe?"

Rebuking and Correcting equates with moral and ethical behavior. Correcting and

Rebuking answers the question: "How should I behave?"

Training in Righteousness (paideia = "parenting") equates with relationships. The Bible is like a parent who gives profitable instruction concerning training in relationships in loving God and others. Training in Righteousness answers the question: "How do I have good relationships?"

We study the Bible profitably if we have some guideline questions to consider for each of the above three areas. The first two areas are rather rational but incredibly important. The last set of questions revolves around feelings and emotions in our relationships. This morning I will simply mention the rational questions. We will delve more into the emotional and relational area to see how to discern the motives and emotions flowing below the surface which often explain what is going on behind the scenes in a passage.

#### DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS (Teaching)

1. What doctrines and truths are taught in this passage?
2. What is the central truth of the passage?

#### BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS (Morals and Ethics)

1. Are there sins for me to avoid?
2. Are there commands for me to obey?
3. Are there promises for me to claim?
4. Are there prayers I should pray?
5. Are there examples for me to follow?
6. What changes do I need to make in order to bring my thinking in line with Scriptures?
7. What are the principal lessons to be learned?

#### RELATIONAL QUESTIONS (Relationships)

1. What "intimacy" or "aloneness" issues do you observe in the passage? Did anyone bless another with a positive emotional experience? Did any hurts occur? How could they be fixed? What might be done to heal the hurt?

THE POSITIVE BLESSINGS	THE NEGATIVE PAINS
INTIMACY (LOVE)	ALONENESS
Acceptance	Rejection
Affection	Abuse
Appreciation	Criticism
Approval	Condemnation
Attention	Ignored
Comfort	Hurt
Encouragement	Disappointment
Respect	Ridicule
Security	Abandoned
Support	Neglect

2. What relationship dynamics do I observe that might help me better my relationships with others?
3. What is it about this passage or story that makes God or Jesus more attractive to me?
4. What does this passage show me about God's heart? (We presume that God wants us to know what's occurring in His heart. This is a dimension of spiritual maturity.) Have I experienced God's heart in similar ways? How am I to respond to God's heart and to His response to the people in the text?
5. What does it do to my heart when I realize that God wants me to know His heart? Does this thrill me? Make me grateful? Humble me? Give me a sense of compassion or responsibility in caring for others?
6. Jesus laid out three overarching relational questions in Matthew 22:34-40:  
 How does this passage relate to loving Him more deeply?  
 How does this passage relate to loving others better?  
 How does this passage relate to loving myself better?

#### Preach It, Teach It News

This is a special week! We are featuring the topic: "Helping Hurting People" and have called in the experts!!!

- Dr. Steve Dowdle, pastor, author and counselor, features a two-part podcast series for ministry leaders called "Four Kinds of People Who Refuse to Change".
- We are honored to have Dr. Thomas Griffin, along with Pastors Roger Barrier and Glenn Barteau, present a three-part series on "Understanding Brain Chemistry and Mood Disorders."
- Author Mark Marikos reveals his journey through grief after losing his wife in "Holding On and Letting Go."
- Our current sermon series: "Mosaic-Connecting with God and Others" features Dr. Roger Barrier preaching on the topic: "Jesus and His Small Group."
- Our weekly Bible Study is called "The Long Journey Home: Psalm 120."
- "Ask Roger" deals with a question from ten-year-old Tess: "Did poop smell before the fall?" Could there be cosmological and eschatological answers to her question? Read and find out.
- In our International Resource section, we are providing Dr. Steve Dowdle's book "Helping the Hurting in Your Church" and Neil Anderson's "Seven Steps to Spiritual Freedom" in Russian.