Interpreting the Bible

*By Raj, for Carol’s CG, PPHBC*

*Session 1 (11/4/2014)*

1. Jane is talking to you after church: “My husband and I are having some problems. But Thankfully God told spoke to me this morning through Ephesians 4:22, and told me that I should divorce him.”

Ephesians 4:22 (NKJV)

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

**How would you respond to her?**

**Point:**

1. Your friend Mary has recently become a Christian. She starts reading the New Testament.

Matthew 1:1-17 (ESV)

1The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**2**Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3**and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,**[**[**a**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23148a)**]** **4**and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5**and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, **6**and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, **7**and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,**[**[**b**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23152b)**]** **8**and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, **9**and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, **10**and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,**[**[**c**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23155c)**]** and Amos the father of Josiah, **11**and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

**12**And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,**[**[**d**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23157d)**]**and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,**13**and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, **14**and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, **15**and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, **16**and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

**17**So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

She tells you, “I took your advice and read the Bible. I have no idea what this stuff means or how I am supposed to apply it in my life.”

**How would you respond to her?**

**Point:**

1. Raj: “Interpreting the Bible”
* Why interpret the Bible?
	1. Get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	2. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A bad way to interpret the Bible
* A good way to interpret the bible
	1. The basic rule:

Always do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 1. “The Interpretive Journey”
1. What would you tell Jane about the correct meaning (exegesis) and application (hermeneutics) of this text?

 Ephesians 4:17-24 (NKJ V)

**17**This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of**[**[**d**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=eph+4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29290d)**]** the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, **18**having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; **19**who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

**20**But you have not so learned Christ, **21**if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: **22**that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, **23**and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24**and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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| **The Interpretive Journey** |
| *Exegesis* | *Hermeneutics* |
| **Grasping the Text in Their Town** | **Grasping the Text in Our Town** |
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1. Raj: Concluding thoughts