



Can We Understand the Bible?

It is a common thought that each person looks at the Bible differently and thus we have our own interpretations. This seems to be ok with most folks. It allows them to end discussions without any change on their part. Some have said that we cannot understand the Bible alike.

- if we understand the Bible at all, it will be alike. We may misunderstand the Bible, but if we understand it, it will be the same answer.
- God tells us that we can understand His word
Eph 5:17 "So then do not be foolish, but _____ what the will of the Lord is"
Nehemiah 8:8 "They read for the book, from the law of God, translating to give _____ so that they _____ the reading."
John 8:32 "and you will _____ the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Three Principles of Bible Study:





- O _____: what do I _____?
I _____: what does it _____?
A _____: how can I _____ this today?

1. On Page 2 is an in class exercise
 - Remember the author, his audience, his purpose & his perspective
 - Remember the greater context of where this story fits in and the overall purpose with Jesus' ministry



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³³ *The people* saw them going, and many recognized *them* and ran there together on foot from all the cities, and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things. ³⁵ And when it was already late, His disciples came up to Him and said, "This place is secluded and it is already late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." ³⁷ But He answered them, "You give them *something* to eat!" And they said to Him, "Shall we go and spend two hundred denarii on bread, and give *it* to them to eat?" ³⁸ But He said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go look!" And when they found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ And He ordered them all to recline by groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ They reclined in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹ And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed *the food* and broke the loaves and He gave *them* to the disciples *again and again* to set before them; and He divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied; ⁴³ and they picked up twelve full baskets of the broken pieces *of bread*, and of the fish. ⁴⁴ There were five thousand men who ate the loaves. ⁴⁵ And immediately Jesus had His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of *Him* to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He Himself dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after saying goodbye to them, He left for the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷ When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ Seeing them straining at the oars—for the wind was against them—at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them. ⁴⁹ But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought that it was a ghost, and they cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid." ⁵¹ Then He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, ⁵² for they had not gained any insight from *the incident of* the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. ⁵³ When they had crossed over they came to land at Gennesaret, and moored at the shore. ⁵⁴ And when they got out of the boat, immediately *the people* recognized Him, ⁵⁵ and ran about that entire country and began carrying here and there on their pallets those who were sick, to wherever they heard He was. ⁵⁶ And wherever He entered villages, or cities, or a countryside, they were laying the sick in the marketplaces and imploring Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and all who touched it were being healed.

- 1. **WHO:** Put a  around the people in this section.
- 2. **WHAT:** Underline _____ the main events you notice
- 3. **WHEN:** Put  a around time references
- 4. **WHERE:** Put a double underline ===== around locations
- 5. **WHY:** Put an  next to the why this is in our Bible
- 6. **HOW:** Put  a under the how these things happened

1. How does Jesus appear in this section of Scripture?
2. How is the compassion of Jesus demonstrated here?
3. How is the power and authority of Jesus illustrated here?
4. Where is "Gennesaret" (53)?
5. What emotions do you see here?
6. What "threads" do you see running through this passage?
7. What is helpful in this passage for us today?