

Going Deeper: Hard Words -October 2nd

Becoming Church: Five Ways



Readings

Psalm 119

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,



Sometimes the word can be confusing, hard to understand, hard to relate to... So we should look at Jesus!

John 14:5-10

5 Thomas said to him, Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way? 6 Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.



8 Philip said, Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us. 9 Jesus answered: Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.



Jesus seemed to suggest that while all scripture is God-breathed, some matters were more important than others:



Matthew 23:23

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more

important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former."

John 5:36

"I have testimony weightier than that of John."

Matthew 19: 3-8

3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?

4 Haven't you read, he replied, that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?

6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.

7 Why then, they asked, did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?

8 Jesus replied, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

Overview and personal reflections

We looked at some 'hard' scriptures to try to discern in them the heart and character of God, as revealed in Jesus: Leviticus 19:19, Deuteronomy 21:10–14, Ephesians 6: 5-9

We noted that some scriptures can become clearer with an understanding of the culture. Some are more or less relevant to us today and we must be wise about this. In all cases we should not 'neglect' the words, but try to understand the heart behind them: the 'spirit' behind the 'letter of the law'. We considered that sometimes scripture might reveal God's 'Accommodating Will' – His 'plan B' given in the light of our fallen condition, because of His great grace. This might not reflect fully His 'Ideal Will' (consider Matthew 19 above). You may like to discuss this or any other issues with your group.

Feedback and Questions

- If you have anything to share out of all of this – any stories, testimonies, creative works or whatever – please let us know. You may be a huge encouragement to many other people.
- You can submit comments and questions to the church office, via your home group leader, or make a note and put it in the offering boxes. There is a special section on the Church website (www.opengate.org.uk) on the 'Forum' page to discuss any issues relating to the church.

Going Deeper: Hard Words -October 2nd

Becoming Church: Five Ways



Readings

Psalm 119

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,



Sometimes the word can be confusing, hard to understand, hard to relate to... So we should look at Jesus!

John 14:5-10

5 Thomas said to him, Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way? 6 Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.



8 Philip said, Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us. 9 Jesus answered: Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.



Jesus seemed to suggest that while all scripture is God-breathed, some matters were more important than others:



Matthew 23:23

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more

important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practised the latter, without neglecting the former."

John 5:36

"I have testimony weightier than that of John."

Matthew 19: 3-8

3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?

4 Haven't you read, he replied, that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', 5 and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?

6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.

7 Why then, they asked, did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?

8 Jesus replied, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

Overview and personal reflections

We looked at some 'hard' scriptures to try to discern in them the heart and character of God, as revealed in Jesus: Leviticus 19:19, Deuteronomy 21:10–14, Ephesians 6: 5-9

We noted that some scriptures can become clearer with an understanding of the culture. Some are more or less relevant to us today and we must be wise about this. In all cases we should not 'neglect' the words, but try to understand the heart behind them: the 'spirit' behind the 'letter of the law'. We considered that sometimes scripture might reveal God's 'Accommodating Will' – His 'plan B' given in the light of our fallen condition, because of His great grace. This might not reflect fully His 'Ideal Will' (consider Matthew 19 above). You may like to discuss this or any other issues with your group.

Feedback and Questions

- If you have anything to share out of all of this – any stories, testimonies, creative works or whatever – please let us know. You may be a huge encouragement to many other people.
- You can submit comments and questions to the church office, via your home group leader, or make a note and put it in the offering boxes. There is a special section on the Church website (www.opengate.org.uk) on the 'Forum' page to discuss any issues relating to the church.