

We Read Meaning Into Some Scriptures

When we read a letter from someone we have to interpret the mood of it because we only have the words to go by. This causes us to read into it the attitude of the writer which we are really unaware of in many cases. The reason for this is that only 7% of communication comes from the words themselves. The rest of what is conveyed to the hearer (i.e. 93%) comes from the way it was said and the speaker's body language.¹ This means that readers of letters, emails and SMS messages can make huge mistakes by misinterpreting the attitude of the writer because nearly all of what needs to be communicated is missing.

The same goes for the way we read certain scriptures which colours our interpretation of them. Here's a few examples:

1. Jesus casting out the money changers: "My house will be called a house of prayer', but you are making it 'a den of robbers'."² – Did he say this calmly, in anger, or in a rage?

We have justified our "righteous anger" because we believed we were copying Jesus' anger in the face of evil. Can you see that we believed that because we read into the Gospel accounts rather than letting the Spirit tell us how to respond in situations.

2. Jesus calming the storm: "Peace, be still!"³ – Did he say this calmly, boldly or demandingly with a booming voice?

We have stood on our 'high horse' in a form of religious pride and bellowed out our commands against the spirit realm to get what we wanted. Why? Because we read into this text how we thought Jesus spoke his commands.

3. Jesus challenging the religious leaders: "Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?"^{4,5} – Did he say this calmly or 'spitting chips' in a blind rage?

How we read NT scripture to ourselves will cause us to speak and act like our interpretation of how words were said because we believe we can do it because Jesus or the Apostles did it that way.

Actually, in an article put out by the Israel Study Center⁶ (which I remember reading but can't find) the way Jesus spoke to the Jewish leaders was the common confrontational style rabbi's used when debating each other. We have no understanding of this in 21st century Western civilization, but it explains Jesus' choice of words when speaking to them. Now that puts a different 'take on it'.

We need to be very careful when reading words from the past and attributing to them our perception of the attitude of the speaker. We all need to realize our mistaken interpretations of scripture and change to doing things the Kingdom way by letting our King teach us himself.

Laurence

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(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

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1 – See "You Still Need to be Able to Communicate in the Kingdom"

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/You-Still-Need-to-be-Able-to-Communicate-in-the-Kingdom.pdf

2 – Matthew 21:13

3 – Mark 4:39

4 – Actually 'Gehenna', not 'hell'

5 – Matthew 23:33

6 – israelstudycenter.com