

Scripture Consulting Essentials

September 28, 2020

Context

Whenever considering Scripture, it is always a good practice to read the context to determine whether a person has correctly understood God's Word as he or she has handled it or whether that individual used a verse to back up his or her preconceived opinions.

Matthew 10:8, 1-8. Freely give.

Matthew 4:5-7. Context.

Psalm 91:9-13:

Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Matthew 5:1-3; 8:1-4. Teaching on a mountain.

Luke 5:12-14; 6:12, 17-20; 7:1. Teaching on a plain.

Matthew 16:5-12.

Verse 6. To understand this record, we need to first understand the custom of making bread in the lands and times of the Bible. Leaven was an ingredient used in making bread, which acted as a kind of preservative.¹ When leaven was added to the dough used to make the bread, it permeated throughout the dough.

Verse 12. Jesus used a figure of speech, hypocatstasis, an implied comparison between leaven and the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees, which permeated among people like the leaven permeated the dough. The disciples at first misunderstood his comparison, and so he explained it to them. Then they understood his implied comparison, as explained to us in the context.

¹ For further information on this custom, see Victor Paul Wierwille, *Jesus Christ Our Passover*, Appendix 2, The Biblical Significance of Leaven (New Knoxville, Ohio: American Christian Press, 1980), pp. 423-434.

To understand this record, it was necessary to read exactly what was written and to recognize the forms of expression used by the writers who wrote what God told them to write, including figures of speech and customs of their times. We also needed to read the context for further explanation, rather than adding an explanation that is not stated in the Scriptures.

Matthew 12:22-30. To the Pharisees who degraded him for casting out devils.

Verse 30:

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Mark 9:31-40. To the twelve apostles regarding someone casting out devils in Jesus' name.

Verse 40:

For he that is not against us is on our part [side].

Matthew 22:32, 23-33. To the Sadducees regarding the resurrection.

Acts 23:8:

For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.

I Thessalonians 1:5:

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Know the Scriptures and the power of God.