

the Venues

Go Deep

Series: The Bible: What is it Good For?
"The Story of the Storytellers"
September 11, 2016

Ok, an oldie but goodie question: "If you were on a deserted island with only one book, what would that book be?" (It's ok not to say The Bible. Really, it is.)

What do you think about the mom in Indiana, charged with felony child abuse, who used Proverbs 23:13 as the basis for beating her child 36 times with a coat hanger (happened this week)?

What are the books of the Bible you gravitate toward? Why?

1. Getting to the final four.

Out of all the books contending for placement in the Bible, why do you think the church leaders picked the ones we have?

Here were some of the "picking principles" for New Testament books:

*Is the author connected to an apostle?

*Does the book reflect the doctrine of the leaders?

*Is the book highly regarded and accepted by the larger Christian community.

What do you think of these principles? Are there any you would omit? Are there any you would add?

Protestants, Roman Catholics, and Eastern Orthodox Christians all have different books in their Bibles. *What lessons do we learn by that fact? What does that say about our view and use of the Bible?*

Martin Luther (1483-1546), tried to remove the books of Hebrews, James, Jude and Revelation from the Bible. Luther is the father of the Protestant Reformation! A huge figure in Christian history. Every Baptist, AG, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc. church is traced back to him in some way!

What do you think? What does Luther's efforts to remove books say about the selection process? About the "authority" of the Bible?

2. How do I read this story?

The Bible is a library of narrative, poetry, history, instruction. How do I make read/interpret it?

How about this as a guide: Let's Read it Like Jesus Did

Read Matthew 5:17.

What does "fulfill" mean?

Read Matthew 5:43-44

How does Jesus "fulfill" the law if he is "changing" the law?

Does that mean we can change the Biblical law?

Read Luke 13:10-17

Compare the Pharisee's and Jesus's method of reading the Bible.

How would you describe each approach to Scripture?

Augustine (354AD -430AD), describes his method of reading the Bible like this: *“The fulfillment and end of Scripture is the love of God and our neighbor...Whoever, then, thinks that he understands the Holy Scriptures, or any part of them but puts such an interpretation upon them as does not tend to build up this twofold love of God and our neighbor, does not yet understand them as he ought.”*

Can you put that in 2016 English?

Based on Jesus and Augustine, how do you answer the question, “How do I read this story?”