



From Text to Sermon

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTEXT

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9:00 am – 10:15 am

Before we begin...

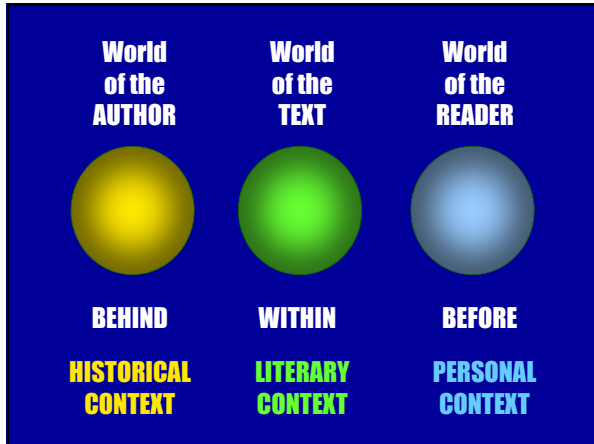
Though very important, care to context alone will not deliver God's truth to human hearts

Understanding is ultimately a gracious work of God's Holy Spirit upon us as we responsibly and carefully study the Bible.

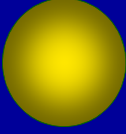


CONTEXT THE KEY

Luke 23:26-43 & with focus to the Jesus' conversation with the 2nd criminal on the cross



I. HISTORICAL CONTEXT



The Ancient World

“A text is the product of an author, and *the author* is a product of an age.” —Tate, *Biblical Interpretation* 10

- **The author writes from his experience and knowledge of his world**
- **He assumes his readers share that world**

... **but that is not our world**

- **The strategy**—slip on a pair of ancient sandals; walk through as much of the author’s world as will help us understand
- **Ask history-focused questions:** chronology, archaeology, geography, culture, literature, society, political institutions
- **The Bible**— remember, it’s a collection of *ancient* documents, from an *ancient* world, having an *ancient* logic

- The Gospel of Luke...***
- written to a high status Christian
 - a 2nd generation document (AD 57—62?)
- Luke 23:26-43 ...***
- Passage → description of an execution
 - Simon → subject to requisition (Matt 5:41)
 - Crucifixion → nailed to a frame or tree; called the “slaves’ punishment”

- Luke 23:26-43 cont’d.***
- Crucifixion → So far only one 20 yr. old 1st century Jewish victim’s crucified remains have been found; however, thousands died this way throughout the Roman world
 - The sign → the *titulus* specified the charges
 - The charge → Jesus = Messiah/King

II. LITERARY CONTEXT



The Divinely Given Text

Literary type...

- The Bible → **NOT** a collection of 66 “books” but rather a collection of **literary types**

The question to ask...

“What type of literature is this and how will this influence the way I read it?”

Luke is a Gospel...so what's a Gospel?

- Not biography or history → but has some of those aspects
- Little of Jesus' early life → more of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection
- Reflects early Christian proclamation
- Presupposes Christian beliefs/vocab.
- **Luke 1:4** → confirms Theophilus in his Christianity
- **Luke 23** → delivers deeply on suffering

How does this passage hold together? What is its structure?

- **V. 26** – Simon's impressment
- **Vv. 27-31** – the crowd follows, women weep, Jesus gives a prophetic word
- **Vv. 32-34** – crucifixion, Jesus prays, clothes divided
- **V. 35** – people watch and Jewish leaders mock
- **Vv. 36-37** – soldiers mock
- **V. 38** – notice of signboard above Jesus
- **Vv. 39-43** – 2nd criminal rebukes 1st, confesses Jesus, Jesus gives a great assurance

What key words will I be interested to explore further?

- "save" (23:25, 37, 39) and "remember" (23:42)
- "Christ" (a king) (23:2, 35, 39) "King of the Jews (kingdom) (23:3, 37, 38, 42)
- "Paradise" (23:43)

What is the key instructional focus? What is the 'big idea' in the passage?

- Pursue the overall thrust and persuasive logic of your passage
- **Luke 23** → carries a powerful contrast between the many misperceptions of Jesus and one clear vision

III. PERSONAL CONTEXT



You and Your Hearers

“We see things not as they are but as we are.”

- **There is no privileged place of perfect objectivity**
- **My personal context is not outside God's view; but it's not equatable to it either**
- **Our Interest** → appropriate application
- **Application constrained by intention encoded in the text**
- **Within the above constraint there is creative freedom**


What is the significance of Luke 23:26-43 for me and my hearers?

- **If the “big idea” rests in the extremity of contrast between right and wrong perceptions of Jesus, a modern question can be pressed upon believers today...**


What do you see when you look at the man hanging on the cross?

**A 20/20
Vision of
Jesus**

Luke 23:39-43



*It's great to be able
to see!*



*I used to have
20/20 vision, and
then...*






Even after
eyesight fades,
it's still great to
be able to see!



Luke 23:35-43
in Context

Against all odds, God
gives one of the least
likely persons in the
Gospel of Luke an
amazingly clear vision
of the true identity of
Jesus.



I. Most People Were Blind (23:35-39)

- The **People** saw a tragedy
- The **Jewish leaders** scoffed
- The **Roman Soldiers** mocked
- The **First Criminal** railed



II. The 2nd Criminal Had Clear Vision (23:40-42)

- He **rebuked** the other criminal
- He saw **his own guilt** and **Jesus' innocence**
- He saw **his salvation** in Jesus



"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."



