

When the Scriptures were properly taught to them, they had a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

Notice how Jesus accomplished this. They say to Jesus, *“The chief priest and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.”* Luke 24:20,21

They thought He was going to save us, but he died on a cross. Jesus says ... What, wait... *Didn't the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”* Luke 24:26

Jesus is saying, if anyone had been paying attention to the Word in this generation they would have realized the Christ *had* to suffer these things to save you.

So why did everyone misunderstand?

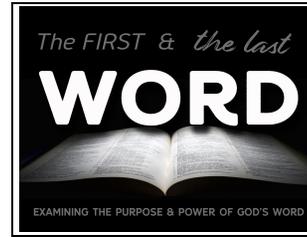
“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”
Luke 24:27

What Jesus is saying here is,
“Everything in the Bible is about me.”

So you can read the Bible as if it's all about what you do, or you can read the Bible as if it's all about Him and what he has done for you.

When you see it's Him doing for you, you'll have a radical encounter with Him and God which will in turn draw you into a place of submission to His will over your own will.

Book resources: Confronting Christianity-Rebecca McLaughlin; Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes-Richards and O'brien; Navigating Tough Texts-Murry J Harris; The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask-Mark Mittleberg



Isn't the Bible out of step with mainstream culture?

I. You can trust the Bible culturally.

1. Consider the possibility that the Bible doesn't teach what you think it teaches.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast.¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” Luke 24:17-24

It's right here in the story Jesus says,

"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:25,26

An example from the early patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

There are two institutions you see in the book of Genesis that were universal in ancient cultures. One was *polygamy*. Meaning the man has more than one wife. The other was *primogeniture* meaning the oldest son got everything.

Robert Altar author of, "**The Art of Biblical Narrative**" says:

"In every generation, polygamy wreaks havoc. Having multiple wives is an absolute disaster in every way. Socially, culturally, spiritually, emotionally. And when it comes to primogeniture, in every single generation, God always favors the younger son over the older. If you actually realize what Genesis is doing, it is subverting, it's overturning and not supporting those ancient patriarchal institutions at every turn. If you don't really read it, if you don't understand that, you haven't learned how to read."

2. Consider the possibility that your own cultural blinders cause your misunderstanding of what the Bible teaches.

Slavery in the Bible:

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Ephesians 6:5

When you and I see the word *slave* in the Bible, we immediately think of the African slave trade, extreme brutal life sentence.

Murray J Harris, a historian, who wrote a book about what slavery was like in the 1st century, (the slaves Paul was writing to).

Slaves were not distinguishable from anyone else by race, speech, or clothing. They looked and lived like everyone else and were never segregated off from the rest of society in any way.

Second, slaves were more educated than their owners in many cases and many times held high managerial positions.

Third, from a financial standpoint, slaves made the same wages as free laborers and, therefore, were not themselves usually poor and often accrued enough personal capital to buy themselves out.

Fourth, very few people were slaves for life in the first century. Most expected to be manumitted after about 10 years or by their late thirties at the latest. (Book-Navigating Tough Texts)

Paul, when faced with 1st century slavery actually discouraged it. *Are you a slave? Don't let that worry you—but of course, if you get a chance to be free, take it.* 1 Corinthians 7:21

In the 18th and 19 centuries, Christians William Wilberforce, most notably with aid from John Newton, author of the hymn, "Amazing Grace", himself a former slave trader, were able to abolish the slave trade in England.

3. Consider the possibility *that what offends you, other cultures don't have a problem with it.*

Americans look at the biblical sex ethic as absurd but applaud the passages on forgiving one's enemy and turning the other cheek. In the middle east cultures they would completely accept the biblical sex ethic and think that forgiving one's enemy is insane.

II. You can trust the Bible personally.

"Didn't our hearts burn within us while he was speaking with us on the road, while he was explaining the scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:32