



WEEK 1 (JUNE 3-9) – INTRODUCTION PART I

The Three Worlds of the Text

The World Behind the Text – What were the cultural, historical, and societal realities which helped shape this passage? Who wrote the passage? Why? To whom? _____

The World of the Text – What is the passage's literary context? How do surrounding passages help us understand its meaning? What imagery, style, or grammatical features does the passage use? Does the passage connect directly to any other parts of Scripture? _____

The World In Front of the Text – How does our modern perspective shape our understanding of the passage? How might the meaning of the text speak to us today? _____

THIS WEEK'S PASSAGE

Matthew 6:19-34

In this week's passage, we read another part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which Barry read from this past weekend. As you study this passage, try to walk through the three worlds of the text yourself and see what new insights come to light.

Some helpful thoughts:

- In first century Israel (when Jesus spoke these words), bank accounts weren't a thing. If you wanted to store away money or invest it into luxury items like extra clothing, you had to keep it all in your home.
- Another of Jesus' important teachings about money and possessions is in Luke 12:13-34
- Psalm 104 also has themes about God's provision worth comparing to this passage.

FUN FACTS

There are 66 books in the Bible: 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament.

Although it is difficult to nail down specific dates, it's likely elements of the Bible were written over the course of more than 1000 years, ending around 80-90 A.D.

The Old Testament was written almost entirely in Hebrew (with a small part of the book of Daniel written in Aramaic). The New Testament was written in Greek.