

How To Study The Bible

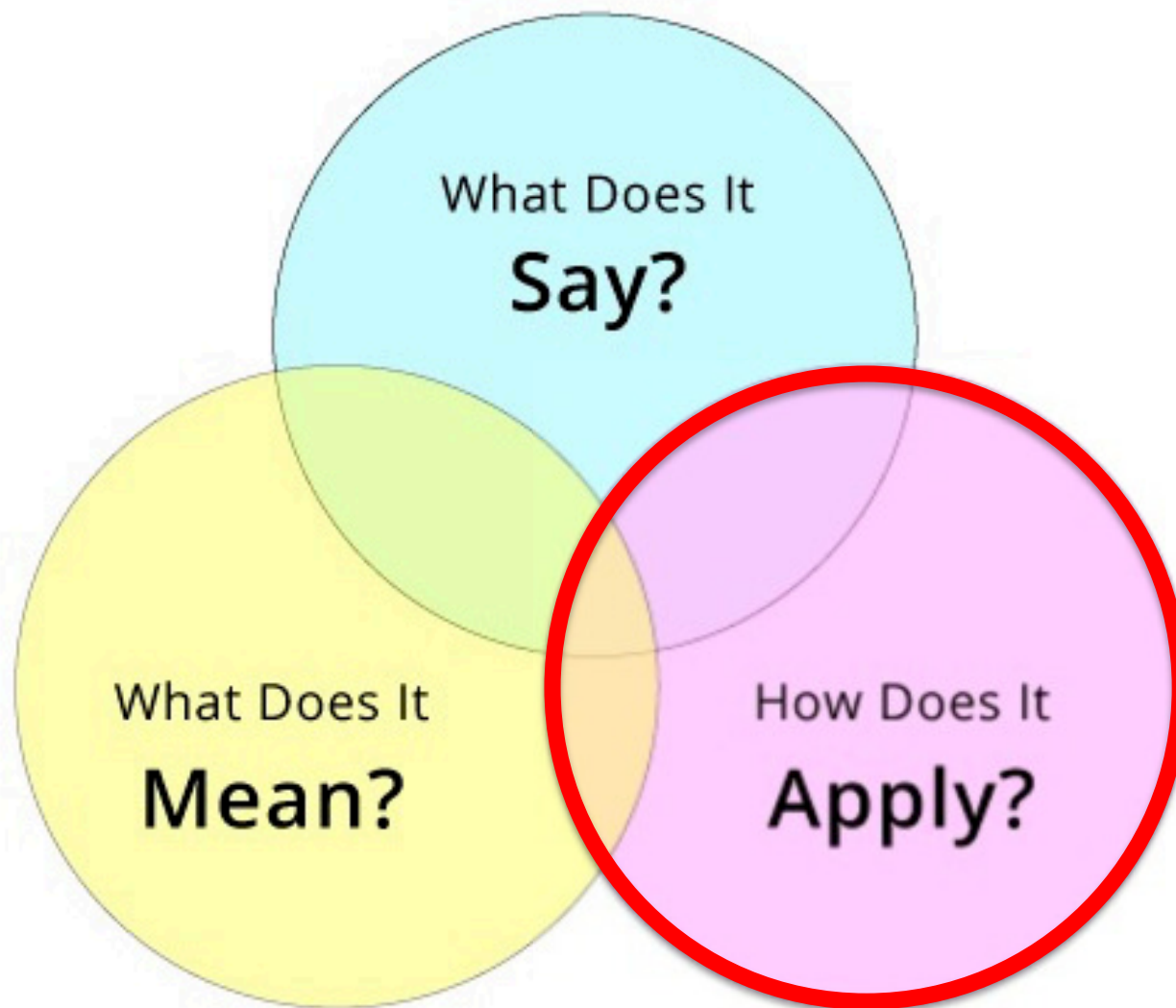
Study 9 – How To Apply The Meaning



The Plan

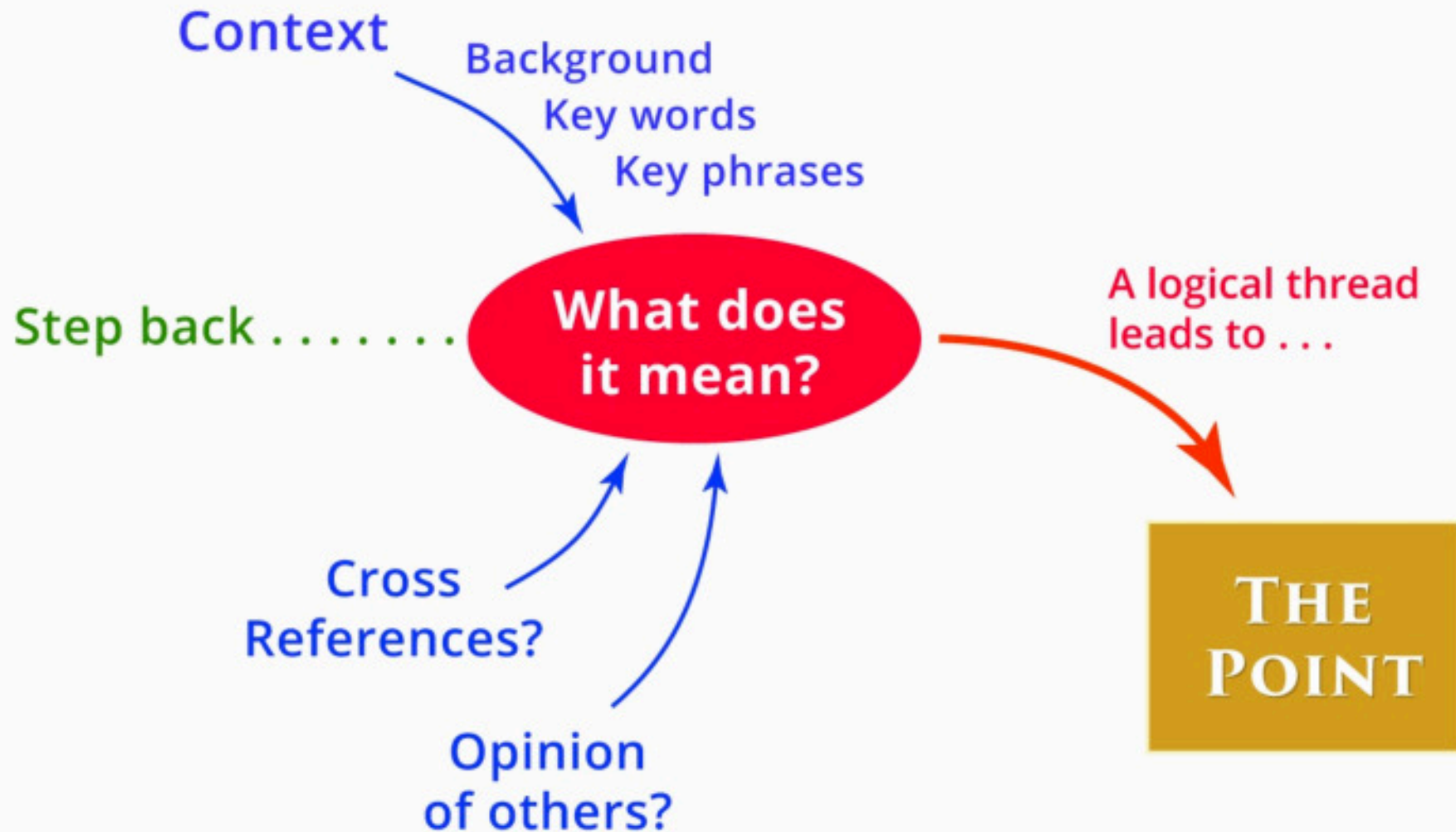
Session 1	Why Study The Bible?
Session 2	Why We Can Trust the Bible
Session 3	How to Prepare to Study the Bible, part 1
Session 4	How to Prepare to Study the Bible, part 2
Session 5	Preparing To Know What The Bible Says
Session 6	What Does The Bible Say
Session 7	Tools For Determining the Meaning
Session 8	Discovering The Meaning
Session 9	How To Apply The Meaning

SMA – Pattern Of The Saints



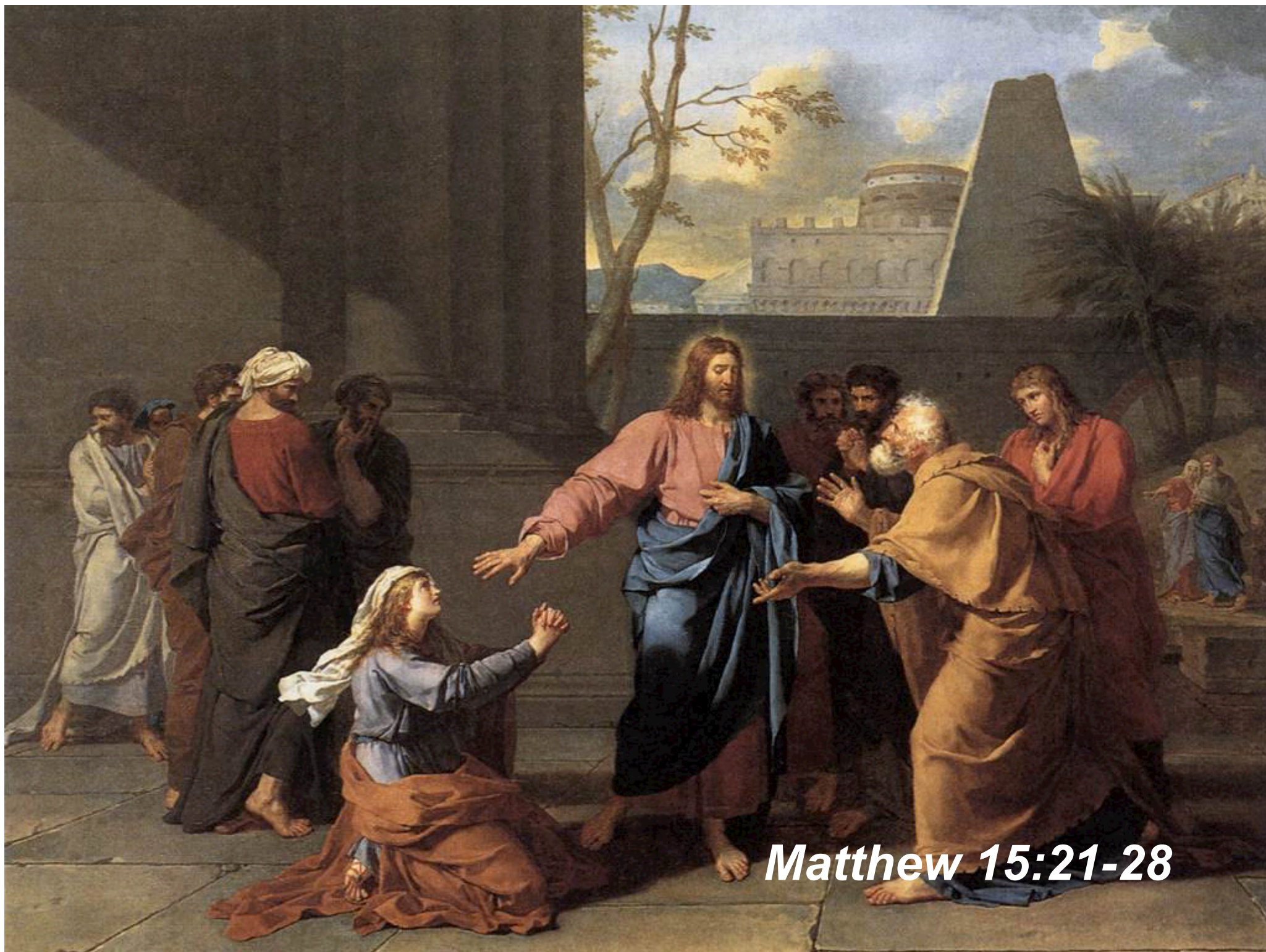


IN THE TRENCHES



Keeping Track of The Pieces

1. For each verse, record your findings and questions.
2. As you collect new information, “Keep asking how does the information fit together?”
3. Meditate on your findings to discover the purpose of the passage. This will create new questions and give you more insights into the passage.
4. When you have finished collecting the pieces, you will usually understand the point of the passage.
5. Then it is time to ask, “**Why** did the Holy Spirit put this into the Bible? **How** am I supposed to respond?” **This is the application.**



Matthew 15:21-28

Principles of Application

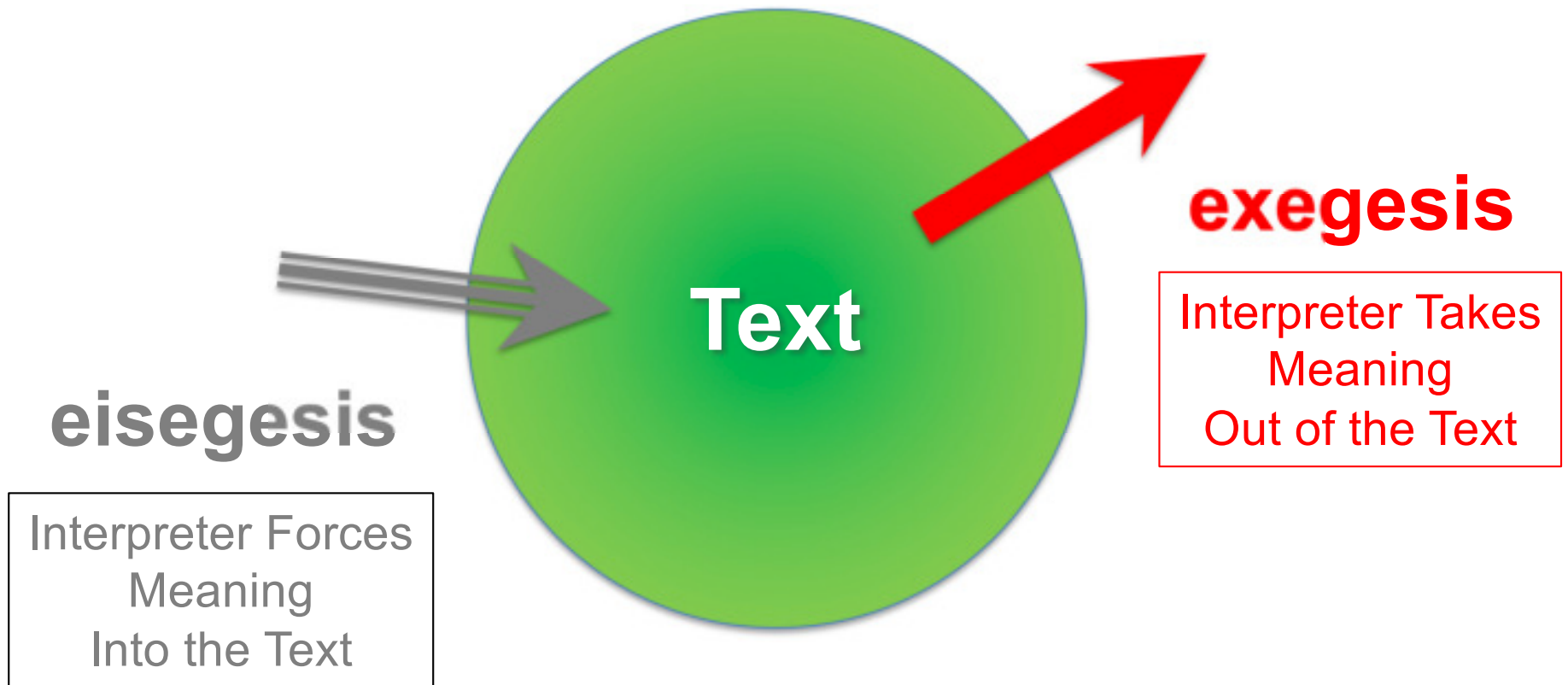
- 1. Scripture has only one meaning but many applications.**
- 2. Let scripture be its own blessing . . . do not spiritualize!** This occurs when we desperately search for an application even when the context and text do not support it. We need to let Scripture be its own blessing.



Extreme Example of Spiritualizing

God has given dating couples a great biblical principle from the defeat of the city of Jericho. We are told in Judges 6 that the people walked around Jericho seven times and the walls fell down. So the application for us is: if a man walks around a woman seven times, the walls of her heart will fall down and she will love him. Then they can get married.

Guiding Principle of Interpretation



Example of Spiritualizing

In Mark 4:35 – 41, we are told that Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee. This wonderful story teaches us that the storm is like the trials and struggles of our lives. So we should understand that God will calm the storms in our lives and bring us to the seashore of peace and victory. Therefore, we should not be afraid as we struggle at the oars of difficulty. Instead we can trust God that He will always come walking on the water to rescue us.

Example of Spiritualizing

Genesis 37 tells us that Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit and later sold him to some Midianite traders who sold him in Egypt. This is a great story that teaches us that our enemies can attack us and throw us into a pit, but we should not fear because God is the God of comeback and favor. God will never allow us to remain in the dirty pit of depression, despair, and depravity because His purpose is one of blessing, purpose, and breakthrough. It is time to overcome our pits! What is the pit that is facing your life today? Maybe it's a financial pit. Maybe it's an emotional pit. Maybe it's a pit of sickness. Maybe it's a relational pit. Well, prepare yourself while you are in that pit because God is about ready to bring you from the pit to the palace!

Principles of Application

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- 2. Let scripture be its own blessing . . . do not spiritualize!** This occurs when we desperately search for an application even when the context and text do not support it. We need to let Scripture be its own blessing.
- 3. Avoid applying biblical promises given to Israel to another country.** Some say the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14 is for the United States of America. But that promise was for the nation of Israel. The principle may apply to the U.S., but we cannot be dogmatic on this verse alone.



Example of 2 Chronicles 7:14

*... and My people who are called by My name
humble themselves and pray and seek My face and
turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from
heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14*

- The promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a promise given to Israel, and not to another country (see verse 12).
- Are there other Scriptures that reveal the principle applies to us? If so, use them (Jeremiah 18:7-10) to teach the principle, and make the application.

Principles of Application

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- 4. Avoid forcing Scripture to fit our culture.** Some claim that 1 Timothy 2:11-13 actually permits woman pastors and elders. They claim that Paul was patriarchal. They claim this passage was not inspired. It is transcultural. Others claim that Paul was objecting to uneducated women teaching men. So, then does Paul permit uneducated men to teach?

Example of 1 Timothy 2:11-13

A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.

1 Timothy 2:11-13

- **The basis of the command “I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man” is based on God’s act of creation.**
- **It transcends culture. It is not rooted in some cultural issue of Paul’s time.**

Discovering the Point . . .

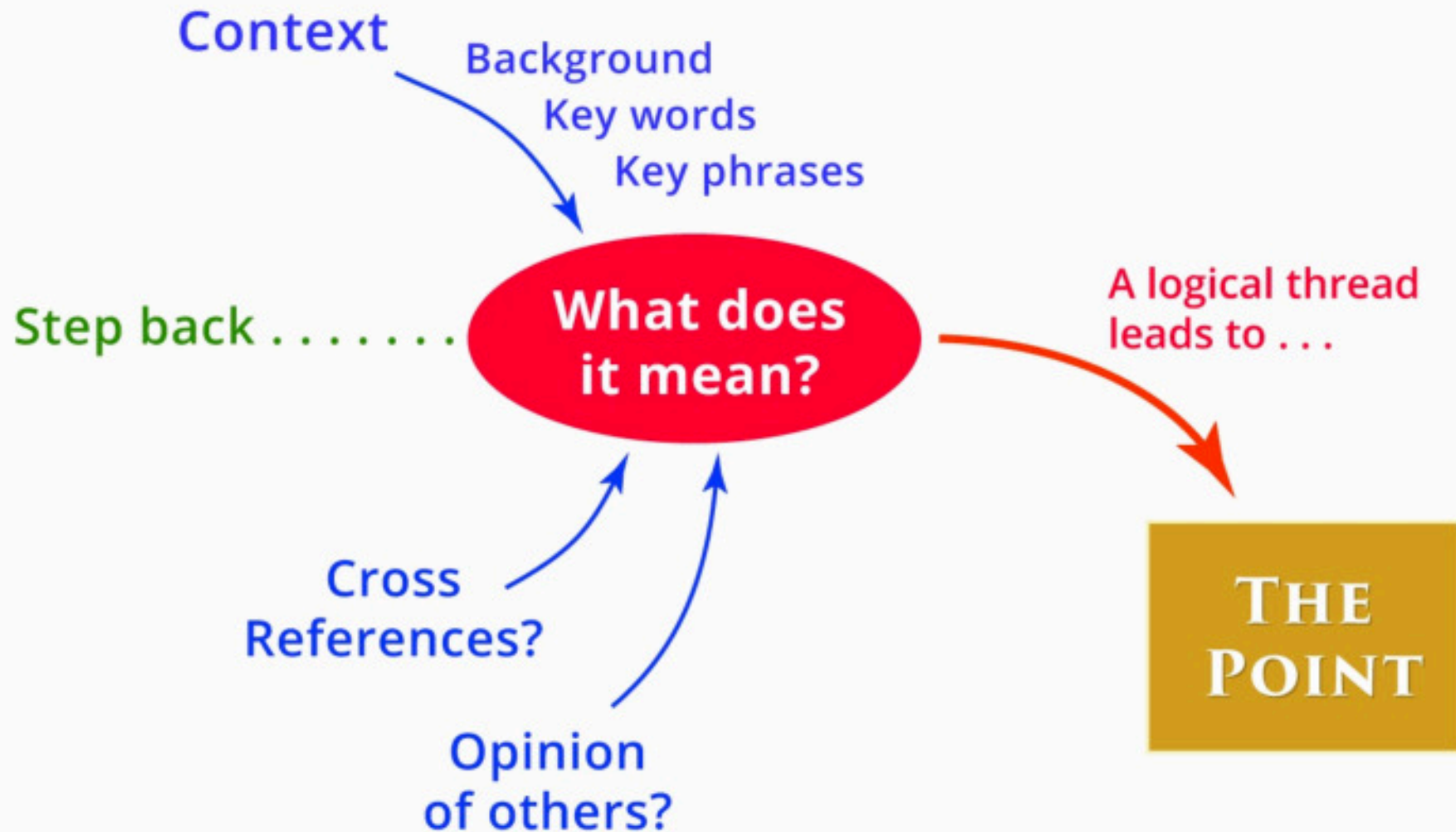
If the Point Is not clear, ask these questions:

- **What is the climax of the account?**
- **What is the theme of the account?**
- **What is the most significant event of the account?**

It may be helpful to outline the passage!

Now what is the point?

IN THE TRENCHES



The Point = ?

The Point = What Is Great Faith?

Everyone watching discovered the woman was an illustration of great faith.

The disciples learned about great faith.

John Cryostom's Comment

(A.D. 347-407)

The Point

For note that Christ did not say, "Let your little daughter be made whole," but "Great is your faith, be it done for you as you desire." These words were not uttered at random, nor were they flattering words, but great was the power of her faith, and for our learning.¹

¹ Thomas C. Oden. Matthew 14-28. Ancient Christian Commentary. InterVarsity Press. 2002. vol. 1b, p. 245. pp. 30.

Martin Luther's Comment

(A.D. 1483-1546)

The Point

We see here why the Lord presented himself so unyielding and refused to hear her, not because he wanted to present an unfriendly image as not wanting to help her, but rather that her faith might be so evident, that the Jews who were the children and heirs of the kingdom might learn from the Gentile, who was not among the children and had no inheritance, how they were to believe in Christ and place all confidence in him. Her faith pleases him so much that he can no longer hide his compassion and kindness, and he states, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee as thou wilt."²

² Martin Luther. Complete Sermons of Martin Luther. Baker Books. 2000. vol. 5. pp. 325-326.

Main Application = ?

***Main Application = How To Have
Great Faith***

Matthew and Luke are the only gospels
that discuss great faith and little faith.

Matthew 6:30; 8:10, 26; 14:31; 16:8
Luke 7:9; 12:28

Meditate To Develop The Application

**You Can Also
Teach It**

- **Reread the account.**
- **Look for sub-points that support the application.**
- **Imagine being one or more of the characters. What would you have learned? How would you have felt?**
- **If you are teaching, prepare everyone for the application along the way or at the end (punch it).**
- **Illustrate the application and use cross-references.**

My Application — 1

1. What is little faith?

Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8 --- worry, fear, doubt, & anxiety

Luke 12:28 --- worry

**Now, Would You
Like Great Faith?**

2. What is great faith?

v. 22 — It worships (Matthew 5:3-4; Hebrews 11:4)

v. 22 — It believes in God (Hebrews 11:5-7)

v. 23-24 — It persists and is humble (Hebrews 11:7-22)

v. 25-27 — It is willing to suffer (Hebrews 11:23-38)



Great Faith

- Worships God
- Believes God
- Persists
- Is Humble
- Is Willing to Suffer

My Application — 2

Issue of persistent demands

- Her persistence was mixed with humility!
- Example of Abraham — Romans 4:18-22
- Example of widow begging for help — Luke 18:1-8
- Example of the disciples — Matthew 15:23

**Strong
Example**

**Wrong
Persistence**