

## QUESTIONS:

1. What is one concrete way of making mincemeat out of the scriptures, names the Gospels in the New Testament?
2. What would be considered biblical slander of the Gospels?
3. Why is it important to acknowledge the historical setting of the Parables?
4. Is the Historical setting the only way we should look at the parables? Why or why not?
5. What is another way that the Gospels chose to express their knowledge, understanding and interpretation of their time with Jesus?

## ANSWERS:

1. One of the most common ways that a person can make mincemeat out of the Gospels is by removing the Historical background of the text and only addressing its theology.
2. Biblical slander would be to take the Gospels and interpret It into modern day situations without learning the history and theology behind the scripture.
3. It is important because when looking at the historical context of scripture you can connect it with modern day terms to have a bigger affect and mental / emotional / spiritual change. In addition, reading and studying the parables in its historical setting will also allow you to connect your audience to the facts that the same things that was happening then happens now and Jesus still speaks to the current situation. It will always make Jesus relevant and prevalent.
4. No, the historical setting is not the only way to look at the parables, you should look at it in a literary context. The Gospel writers had a way of writing that spoke to the situations in their time. Like Matthew who arranged his writing to address the lives of some Christians groups and their commitment, we too can arrange our material to address the same issues using the literary context and meaning and history.
5. They used distinction as a method of getting their point across. They would distinguish one thing from another, and it is in our understanding and knowledge of our studies that allows us to appreciate this way of teaching.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Irrespective** - Not taking something into account; regardless of its importance and relevance.

**Imprecise** - lacking exactness and accuracy of expression or detail

**Mockery** - teasing and contemptuous language or behavior directed at a particular person or thing.

## SUMMARY:

Reading the gospels can be a little stressful if you are not careful to look at its historical and literary context. When a person understands the history of the people the word was originally intended for and the setting in which the message was written then it is easier to connect it to

our modern day living. Our 21<sup>st</sup> century living is not much different than their 1<sup>st</sup> century living in relation to how we act, how we treat others and how we treat Jesus. We in the 21st century believe that we can get behind a text and explain the Gospels better than the writers. However, we should understand better than anybody how frustrating it is to try to explain someone else's story better than they can or vice versa. Instead of getting behind it we must see it for what it is and arrange it according to the church / people that we minister to. What separates us from others around us is not that we are so intelligent but the with the power that we possess from the Holy Spirit that our Lord and Savior left for us when he ascended to be with God our Father. The source is more important than the interpreter and the source must be how we connect to the writers of the text and look intently at the scripture to be able to connect to the people / church you minister to.