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NT615: Biblical Exegesis

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5-3-1 Kaiser & Silva Ch.10

QUESTIONS

1. What are the things you should keep in your mind when you interpret the Gospel?
2. Why does the issue of historicity often come up when dealing with biblical passages?
3. How did Luke write both of his Gospels?
4. What did Jesus use the most in His teaching?
5. What does history and theology have in common when it comes to writing the Gospel?

Answers

1. The things to keep in mind as you interpret the passage of the gospel are the syntactic detail, the primary thrust of the passage, and its broader significance.
2. The Biblical faith has a historical character at its very foundations; in contrast to other religions, this feature is one of its most significant distinctive.
3. In both of Luke's Gospel, the writer gives explicit statements to be taken as historical facts (Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3).
4. The most distinctive feature in Jesus' teaching methods was his use of parables to teach spiritual truth and principles.
5. The Gospel writers are both historians and theologians. They recount the facts, but they also interpret them so that we may believe.

TERMS

Historical: Connected with studying or representing things from the past.

Hermeneutic: Relating to the meaning of texts and the ways in which they are understood.

Epistle: A poem or other literary work in the form of a letter or series of letters

SUMMARY

In chapter 10, we discover that while discussing the interpretation or meaning of a passage, several diverse topics could be in focus: a grammatical feature, the main idea of the passage, its broader relevance, etc. Since a story's "meaning" is typically unaffected by its factual truth, the question of historicity would appear to fall outside the purview of interpretation. Whether or not the story of George Washington and the cherry tree occurred, the story's moral is still the same: people shouldn't lie.