Interpretation – What does it mean? Application – What does it mean for me?

Gospel of John 7:30 - 52

New American Standard Version

1 So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come. But many of the crowd 2 3 believed in Him; and they were saying, "When the Christ comes, 4 He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, 5 will He?" The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering these things 6 about Him, and the chief priests and the Pharisees sent officers to 7 seize Him. Therefore Jesus said, "For a little while longer I am 8 with you, then I go to Him who sent Me. You will seek Me, and 9 will not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come." The Jews then said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that 10 11 we will not find Him? He is not intending to go to the Dispersion 12 among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks, is He? What is this 13 statement that He said, 'You will seek Me, and will not find Me; 14 and where I am, you cannot come'?" Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone 15 16 is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of 17 18 living water." But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who 19 believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, 20 because Jesus was not yet glorified. Some of the people therefore, 21 when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the 22 Prophet." Others were saying, "This is the Christ." Still others 23 were saying, "Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, 24 is He? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the 25 descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where 26 David was?" So a division occurred in the crowd because of Him. 27 Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. 28 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they 29 said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers 30 answered, "Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks." The Pharisees then answered them, "You have not also been led 31 32 astray, have you? No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in 33 Him, has he? But this crowd which does not know the Law is 34 accursed." Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of 35 them) *said to them, "Our Law does not judge a man unless it first 36 hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?" They 37 answered him, "You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, 38 and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee."

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Use the suggestions on the back page as a starting point for your own **Observation, Interpretation, and Application**.

John 7_30 - 52 speaking of the Spirit

Interpretation – What does it mean? Application – What does it mean for me?

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it <u>say</u>?)

What <u>facts</u> do you **observe** about the passage (repetition, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect, unusual words, etc.)? Mark the passage (underline, circles, etc.) to help bring out the writer's thought process.

- Who are the people involved?
- What is the action taking place?
- What type of literature is the passage (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are there any unusual words used?
- Is there any symbolic or figurative language used?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Is there any repetition of words or ideas?
- Are there comparisons or contrasts?
- Are there indications of cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Does the passage contain any explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it <u>mean</u>?)

What <u>questions</u> come to mind about the facts of the passage that would help you **interpret** the writer's meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
 - What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean <u>for me</u>?)

How does the writer's meaning relate to your life? What <u>specific</u> application might the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them. – J.A. Bengel