



## How to Read the Bible

### Part 2: The Four Ancient Lenses for Interpreting Scripture

#### Guiding Principle

- Our spiritual ancestors knew how to read the Bible sophisticatedly. They developed Four Ancient Lenses: the **Literary, Allegorical, Moral, and Epic Lens**

#### The Good Samaritan through the Four Lenses (Luke 10:25-37)

- Literal (Literary) Lens
  - **Pay attention to the words, characters, plot, setting, etc.**
  - Note how the framing of the story gives meaning; how Jesus turns a question on its head.
- Allegorical Lens
  - **Pay attention to the metaphors, allusions and interconnections of the passage.**
  - Jerusalem is the city where God dwells; Jericho is the place of curses; Note, the man was leaving Jerusalem and walking toward Jericho
- Moral Lens
  - **Pay attention to the practical response called for from the passage.**
  - "Go and do likewise"  
*Luke 10:37*
  - Avoid moralism or moral literalism
- Epic (Anagogical) Lens
  - **Pay attention to how this story reflects God's great plan for the world.**
  - God does not leave us in the ditch like the religious leaders of the story, but comes to heal us and bring us home.

#### Gathering. Open with a prayer like this,

- Loving God, the well-spring of life, pour into our hearts the living water of your grace. By your light we see light. Increase our faith, and let us walk in the brightness of your presence; with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Listening. Read Luke 10:25-37 then watch or listen to the message.

#### Wondering. Spend some time in silence and consider the following.

- I wonder what you liked about the presentation.
- I wonder what challenged you about the presentation.
- I wonder what of the Four Ancient Lenses appeals to you most.
- I wonder what of the Four Ancient Lenses appeals to you least.
- I wonder if there is a specific interpretation of the Good Samaritan you love.

#### Sharing. Choose a question to share with the group.

#### Praying. Practice the Examination of the Day together.

- For what today are you most grateful for?
- For what today do you need healing?
- Where did you see Christ today?
- Where do you pray for Christ's presence today?

#### Commissioning. Take what you experienced today into your week.

- This week, I want to try reading a portion of the Bible using one of the Four Ancient Lenses. If I need it, I'll send David an email to ask for help ([dmatthew.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:dmatthew.taylor@gmail.com)).
- This week, I want to begin reading my Bible regularly.

#### Preparing. Read Revelation, chapter 1.

