

Interpreting Scripture

Summary of a sermon at

St Vigor's Church, Fulbourn: Sunday 28th September 2008

Rev. Rhiannon Jones

Introduction

- The Bible as the Word of God- what does that mean?
- Intended to be read, not to sit on a shelf!
- Get the right translation for the right task.
- Use as much help as you can get - sermons, commentaries, groups, concordances etc.
- Read the passage over several times.

10 points to bear in mind when we read Scripture

1. You are not a neutral interpreter. Recognise your prejudices.
2. Use your common sense - the greatest tool for interpreting Scripture.
3. Expect God to speak.
4. Ask the right questions – Remember: context, context, context.
5. Be open to be challenged.
6. Research pays off. The more you put into Bible study the more you'll get out of it.
7. What is culture-bound and what is universal?
8. Don't build a doctrine or a theory on one verse.
9. Avoid selectivity - just reading your favourite parts.
10. Do something about what you read.

'Some people tell me they are bothered by all the difficult parts in scripture they don't understand. I'm more bothered by the bits I *do* understand.'

Mark Twain