

LECTURE: CHAPTER FOUR: Practical Understanding of Bloom's Taxonomy

Did you ever look at the sky and say to yourself that you might need an umbrella but then decided against it?

Personal Story: Recently that happened to this author while at the grocery market. I hoped to gain a few minutes of freedom of lugging that umbrella along with my purchases and try to juggle all of my bags, purse and the umbrella. I hoped to roam free in my grocery marketing without all of the added "baggage." Umbrellas, to me, are a basic necessity if raining but if only there is a chance of rain they become an encumbrance. I did indeed look at the sky but thought I only will be here for a few minutes and surely I can do all I need and in my car and back at home before any rain comes. As they say, hindsight is 20/20 but nearsight is 0/0. After being drenched as I left the store I said, why is it when the Holy Spirit speaks I *do NOT* listen?

So often the Holy Spirit speaks to us but often we fail to respond properly. We want His blessings but more often than not we want them on our terms not His. Our goal is to be obedient but more often we fail to respond properly. Why? We need answers and ways to cement our beliefs so that we do not fall into the precipice as Steve Jobs did : "different religions are different doors to the same house. Sometimes I think the house exists, and sometimes I don't. It's the great mystery." If Steve had spent time in the Word and sought the wisdom of the Holy Spirit he would have known that there is one house, one way to that house and it is through Jesus Christ alone. If we, like Steve Jobs, ignore the Word and its teaching we too may see life of multiple images filtered through the lens of where we are now but lacking a future point of reference called our eternal destiny. . But, God has clearly said there is one way and it leads to one house called heaven. Why is it then that we are so unwise, so unlearned, so lacking in the knowledge of God's Plan? Perhaps the King Solomon will shine some light on our dilemma.

In Proverbs 24:3-4. The 3rd and 4th verses speak to the three character qualities that are needed to make one wise: By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; by knowledge its rooms are filled with all kinds of precious and pleasing treasures. Let's take a moment to look at each one of these qualities:

1. wisdom: knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; sagacity, discernment, or insight.
2. understanding: mental process of a person who comprehends; comprehension; personal interpretation:
3. knowledge: acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles,

According to Solomon it is these three words/principles that are the foundational building blocks of one's life (one's rooms) or one's family or any other building such as a church or a related group who work together in some capacity. Strip any one of those key principles and your house will collapse as a deck of cards. So what was Solomon teaching through these three synonyms?

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“By wisdom a house is built”. That is the key to unlocking the mystery that many are seeking. There are two kinds of wisdom spoken about in scripture: earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom and James has given the contrast to both in chapter three. But truly what is wisdom? Wisdom is the ability to take what you know and use it in any given situation but understanding is the ability to perceive and come to a conclusion. Before you can be wise or understand you must have the facts or the truths which are the key elemental factors to help you make wise decisions or conclusions.

Notice that the author of Proverbs speaks of building a “house”. For our intents and purposes, in this course, the house we are building will enable us to build Sunday School Curriculum that will build wisdom. Further, we are building ourselves and/or our families for eternity. That may seem like a stretch but if you consider the three nouns of wisdom, understanding, knowledge you will see that each speaks of a quality that is needed and develops the mind and reframes it for His use. These parts will start the foundation of our “house” and as we study and build we can add the parts that will add structure and beauty. Turn in your Bible and read along with me from the book of 2 Peter chapter 1. Peter writes in his book to those who have a memory lapse and he wants to remind them of some very detailed points. The first one is key: God’s divine power has bestowed on us everything necessary for life and godliness [2Pet 1:3]

God has also given us a mind to use and He desires that we build our “house” (mind) so that we can process the insights that He gives us and make wise decisions and seek scriptural principles to guide our lives. In order to accomplish this we must be “in the Word and His Word in us”. We must allow the Holy Spirit to direct our attention to the questions we are to ask, the insights we are to gather, the principles to discern, and the applications to enforce.

Does this sound overwhelming? It did to me as well until the Holy Spirit instructed me in the design of this worksheet that you should by now have downloaded from the Appendix. (It is offered in either a docx or pdf format) Let’s take a look at it and then walk through it step by step. Just as observation is the first step a detective takes when he comes to a crime scene so observation is our first key step in any Bible Study. This worksheet is designed for you! It is my gift to you so that you can glean truths to build your house from the ground up and then add the details such as the “windows and doors”.

Let’s take a moment and walk through this worksheet and see how and why it is set up as it is. Notice that there are 5 columns which will guide our thinking and processing of information. The first column is titled Summarize Details and is where we will put our key details that we glean from our observation and using the tools of the “5W’s and an H”. We want to know who, where, when, why and how all of this occurred. We want to make a big “sticky note” in the summary column of what we learn. How are you at subtraction? This is **key** to utilizing this worksheet; subtract all of the extraneous words that will not be needed to draw you back to the original idea and sentence. Take a familiar verse: such as John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He gave his only

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begotten son that whosoever believeth should not perish but have everlasting life'. Subtract all of the extraneous words that John used to give us a complete thought.

Here's a subtraction sample from this verse (John 3:16)

God loved world, gave only begotten son, not believe = perish, believe = have everlasting life

This is what you will be doing as you work in the Summary column on the selected verses that are part of your study. Try to practice doing some of your own. Let's try some together:

Eph 2:8-9, 2 Tim 3:16, Gal 2:20

Eph 2: 8-9 By grace saved → faith; not from self; God's gift; not works lest boast;

Now do 2Time 3:16 and Gal 2:20 on your own.

Now that you have done some practice verses, let's take a passage and let me show you how to work through a passage such as Titus 1. First let's do v 1-4 together. How shall we summarize it? Are you getting better at subtraction? If not, do not get discouraged, it will come the more you do it. I would suggest that you print out an extra worksheet and follow along with me. This will be a practice exercise. I will model and then you will demonstrate. You can work with paper/pencil or on your computer. If you use the computer use font size 10. Now let's share our ideas. Here are mine:

Here's what I came up with for the first 4 verses:

Ch 1:vs1-4 Paul: 1. <i>God's Bondslave</i> ; 2. <i>Apostle of Jesus Christ</i> ; 3. <i>entrusted to preach God's Wd</i> ; [WHY] <i>further chosen ones faith & knowledge of truth</i> (Principle) <i>God does NOT lie. Made msg evident thru preaching</i> <i>Titus: my true child</i>
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Did you find that as you did the summary key details that you had some questions? Before you lose them, jot them in the second column. I usually do this trick to remind me that I am inserting "my" questions: put a "?" mark prior to the question...and then do word subtraction...

Ex. Instead of ?What do we learn about God

Try: ?What learn about God

Instead of ?What do we learn about Titus

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Try: What learn about Titus.

You will see that the more you practice subtracting words you will have more white space on your worksheet but still have the nuggets of gold that you will need to draw you back to your main idea. Our mind inserts the missing words often to make a sentence as we read.

Did the Holy Spirit recall to your mind some verses while you were subtracting? Insert those as well. If not, The Illuminator Teacher Holy Spirit will bring them back to your mind the more you study and the more you hide His Word in your heart.

Skip the Ten Word Sentence column for the time being. Skip over to the AIM. In just these 4 short verses did the Holy Spirit bring a thought to your mind that He wants you to meditate upon? Here is one that came to my mind just now that I had not thought of when I studied before: Just as Paul was entrusted to preach the Word of God so I am entrusted to study and then to share with others which also reminded me of what Paul told Timothy 2:2 And entrust what you heard me say in the presence of many others as witnesses to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well.. Aims are what God wants His flock to know, to hide in their hearts, what are the encouragements, what He wants us to do with what we are learning. They are designed not only for now but we need to look back in history and see what the aim was for those who would be first century readers. Remember that even though we do not live then, we have the same needs and should have the same goals.

Then: Paul wanted the Cretans to realize that God has given them a special gift in earthen vessels; God had entrusted this gift to them. Now they are to share this gift with others by how they live, speak, and do. Thus we can write our AIM as follows:
Then: Share the entrusted gift with others

Now: Share God's treasure with others

Now let's talk about spiritual principles. These are timeless truths from God that never change. They are what guide us through all of life giving us direction, giving us hope, giving us life. We verbalize them to remind ourselves that it is God that uses these to teach us about Himself and uses them to teach us about ourselves as well. The more you study you will learn you will develop a keen eye to see the truths and they will be repeated over and over through scripture. Here are some I gleaned from these 4 verses:

Did you see that I already had written a note to myself in the first Column of our first principle? Transfer it to this section of the worksheet.

1. God does not lie
2. I/We are to further the faith of others
3. God is a promise keeper

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4. God has made His message evident
5. Grace and peace come from the Father and the Son

What did you find? When you send in your assignment for this chapter, share your ideas with me. [SonShine]

The last column can be worked at this time as well in order that we do not lose these truths and also as the Illuminating Holy Spirit teaches us and challenges us to live out these truths. So let's turn to the Application section of this worksheet. This is where you write a personal application for yourself or if you are teaching one that you can tweak to fit your class. An application must have 3p's. It must be:

- personal -- fits you and you alone
- possible -- something you can actually achieve before the next time you meet or teach this passage
- provable-- will be some way you can prove that you actually fulfilled the application

Looking back at your Aim should help you see what the Holy Spirit wants you to accomplish. So using that we might write:

This week I will pray for divine opportunities and then look; I will seek the Holy Spirit's nudge and be bold to share the gift; I will either journal the response or share with someone what happened as I shared at His divine opportunity to share this treasure.

As we work through this worksheet doing a complete lesson we will work more on the AIM's, how to write a ten word sentence and dividing up the passage. The more we work the easier it will come but for now this is enough to whet your appetite!

Your assignment now is to try the rest of chapter 1 of Titus and complete a sample worksheet filling a key "nugget" in each column. Send the completed worksheet to SonShine. .