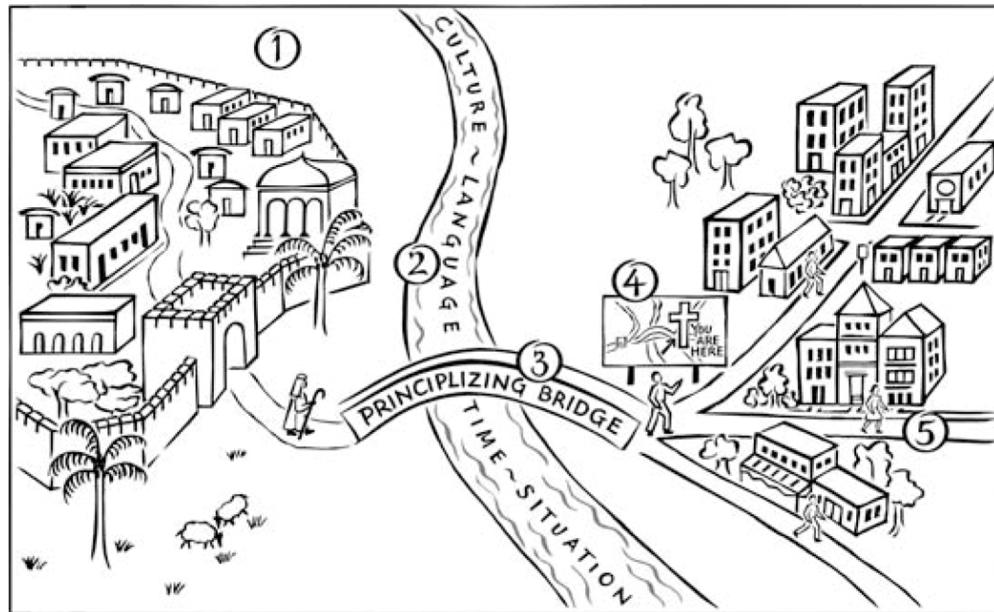


Interpretation: Our Context and the Width of the River

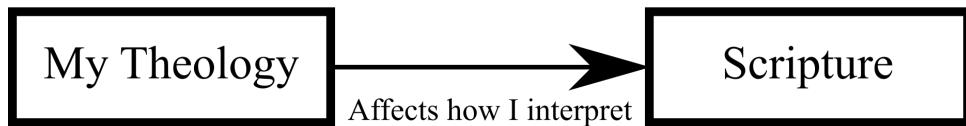
1. Last few weeks - Grasping the Text in Their Town, Step 1
2. Now - Measuring the Width of the River, Step 2
3. The Danger - Eisegesis.
 - a. Reversal of the process where we apply our town's understanding to their town
 - b. Letting our preexisting beliefs shape how we interpret the text, instead of letting the text shape our beliefs
4. Romans 13:1-7 example:
 - a. Was the Boston Tea Party/American Revolution biblical?
 - b. Does this passage expect Christians to fight tyranny?
 - c. If our impulse is to explain how Romans 13 *doesn't* mean for Christians to submit to authority, that's an impulse to eisegete.
5. Some values and cultures of today that differ from the Biblical Era:
 - a. Honor/Shame vs. Guilt/Innocence
 - i. Gospel to us is very much "I am guilty/ Christ made me innocent"
 - ii. Gospel to them was more "Christ dishonored himself to give me heavenly honor"
 - b. Collectivism vs. Individualism
 - i. My rights come before my neighbor's prosperity
 - ii. Much of the New Testament was written with "you plurals" to a church community
 - c. Ancient Roman Republic/Ethnocrats vs. Modern Western Liberalism
 - i. Political activity was once deadly
 - ii. Modern voting is outside the scope of Biblical authors
 - d. Mediterranean Culture vs. Modern Globalism
 - i. "Race" as a modern concept - skin color irrelevant
 - ii. Social Standing much more important
6. Cultural Exegesis - Understanding our modern culture
 - a. Benefit 1: Makes us aware of our biases - Seeking objectivity
 - b. Benefit 2: Helps us know what culture we are applying Scripture to

The Interpretive Journey, Step 2

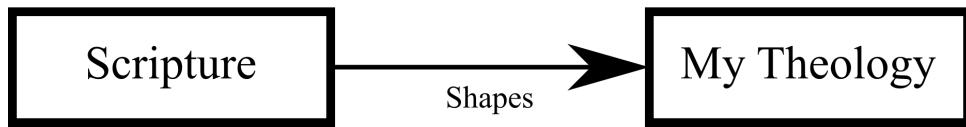
Measuring the Width of the River



Eisegesis



Exegesis



Once we understand our culture (and how different it is from the Biblical Culture), we can avoid eisegesis while still coming up with a message that is applicable for all time.