

6. So What?

Introduction

When Christ left His throne in Heaven and entered the world of Man, John described it this way. “*The Word became flesh.*” (**John 1:14**). *Jesus fleshed out the Word of God!* It is as if **God’s Word** is the **genetic code** (*genome*) and Jesus is the **physical manifestation** of that code (*phenome*). God is still in the business of fleshing out His Word, but now it is through the lives of His children. ***You and I have the privilege and responsibility of allowing God to incarnate His Word through our lives!***

The Main Objective in Application is to “***flesh out***” God’s Word in our lives. ***Unless Scripture impacts and changes our lives, all of our work in Observation and Interpretation is in vain.*** God’s Word was not given to satisfy our intellectual curiosity, but to transform our ***minds, hearts and wills***, and to conform us to Christlikeness. Unless this occurs, Scripture says we are like people who gaze in a mirror, see our ***unkempt appearance***, but then walk away ***without doing anything about it!*** (**James 1:22-24**) Numerous Scripture echo God’s promise to bless those who obey Him! (Deuteronomy 29:9; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; John 14:21; James 1:25; 1 John 2:17) ***Why go through all the work of discovering God’s Will and miss out on the blessing by not obeying it!***

***“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.
Do what it says!”
James 1:22***

Scripture teaches much on foolishness versus wisdom. The ***foolish person*** is one who ***knows the right thing to do and doesn’t do it***, while the ***wise person knows the right thing to do and does it!*** Application is what divides the foolish from the wise!

Be sure of this, that a Knowledge of God’s Word by itself does not make one wise. You can be an expert in Biblical Truth, and even possess degrees to prove it. But unless that Truth is lived out through your life, it is only head Knowledge. ***You would be smart and foolish at the same time!*** God is not impressed by how much we Know, but by how much we ***Trust and Obey His Word*** in our lives.

Spiritual Wisdom =
Knowing God’s Word
Trusting God’s Word
Incarnating God’s Word

Application Acrostic

The popular Acrostic (SPACE) has been used by many to reveal areas of personal Application from Scripture.

Sins ~ *Are there Sins I need to confess?*

Promises ~ *Are there Promises for me to claim?*

Attitudes/Actions ~ *Are there Attitudes/Actions I should adopt or avoid?*

Commands ~ *Are there Commands I ought to obey?*

Examples ~ *Are there Examples for me to follow?*

Plus

Truths ~ *Are there Truths to believe?*

Work through each item to see if they point out any applications to apply to your life.

If there are any Sins to Confess - **Confess Them!**

If there are any Promises to Claim - **Claim Them!**

If there are any Attitudes or Actions to Adopt or Avoid - **Do Them!**

If there are any Commands to Obey - **Obey Them!**

If there are any Examples to Follow - **Follow Them!**

If there are any Truths to Believe - **Believe Them!**

Applications from Mark 4:35-41

Applying the Acrostic **SPACE** to Mark 4:35-41 points out the following Applications:

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|-------------------|--|
| Sins | ▶ Lack of Faith in Christ and His Word. |
| Promises | ▶ None given in the passage. |
| Attitudes/Actions | ▶ Avoid the Disciples' lack of faith and Adopt Christ's Attitude of Trust in God. |
| Commands | ▶ None. (<i>Note: Not every Command or Promise in Scripture can be applied to our lives. Some are given to specific persons in the Bible and apply to them alone!</i>) |
| Examples | ▶ Follow Jesus' example of Faith in God. |
| Truths | ▶ Believe that Christ is able to do all He says He will .
Believe that Christ has authority over all things. |

Use the Acrostic SPACE to find points of Application in your study of Mark 8:22-30.

Application Principles to Live By

Another way to apply Scripture to our lives is to discover ***Principles in Scripture*** that can be applied to our lives. Every *Principle* must meet the following *Standards*:

1. **Application Principles** are *Universal Truths Transcending Culture and Time*.
2. **Application Principles** Must Be *Clearly and Completely Supported by Our Observations and Interpretations*.

Application Principles From Mark 4:35-41:

Mark 4:35-41

- 35 That day
when evening came,
he said to his disciples,
"Let us go over to the other side."
- 36 Leaving the crowd behind,
they took him along,
just as he was,
in the boat.
There were also other boats with him.
- 37 A furious squall came up, and
the waves broke over the boat,
so that it was nearly swamped.
- 38 Jesus was in the stern,
sleeping on a cushion.
The disciples woke him and said to him,
"Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"
- 39 He got up,
rebuked the wind and
said to the waves,
"Quiet! Be still!"
Then the wind died down and
it was completely calm.
- 40 He said to his disciples,
"Why are you so afraid?
Do you still have no faith?"
- 41 They were terrified and asked each other,
"Who is this?
Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

Principles

1. Our Greatest Strengths Often Become Our Worst Weakness. (4:36-38)
2. Jesus is Not Blown Away by the "Storms" in Our Lives. (4:37-39)
3. Jesus Has Authority Over the Things that Swamp Our Lives (4:39)
4. Jesus Does Not Want Us to Have Fear, but to Have Faith in Him Instead. (4:35, 40)
5. What Jesus Says, He Does! (4:35)

When developing Application Principles, remember to observe the standards stated above. And be open to having others analyze your Principles for error using the Bible Study Method and Principles.

The truth in these Principles, when based on Scripture, can be used to renew our minds in order to transform our lives.

Develop Application Principles from Mark 8:22-30.