

How Jesus Understood the Bible

Questions to consider

1. 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not abolish but to fulfil'.

What does fulfil mean? How did Jesus do this?

2. What is midrash? What is the difference between Written and Oral Law?

3. What were the issues surrounding divorce and Deuteronomy 24? Why did Jesus use Genesis 2:24 in his reply? Did he rule out divorce? What do we learn from this debate about God's fundamental purpose of human relationships?

4. '... listen but not understand' (Mark 4:12). How is biblical literalism limiting? Why is it important for us to reinterpret scripture for our present situation? What are the problems doing this?

5. Jesus' temptations prompt us to question whether we only read Bible passages which confirm what we'd like to hear, or do we struggle with harder parts of the Bible? How do we interpret these difficult passages with other parts of the Bible?

6. Luke 4 and Isaiah 61 (Jesus' first sermon at Nazareth).

How much do we allow the Bible to change us and we in turn to change the world?