

If You Just Pluck Verses Out Of Context...

I. Introduction: “Context” means: “the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed: the parts of something written or spoken that immediately precede and follow a word or passage and clarify its meaning” (New Oxford American Dictionary).

A. Sometimes things can be easy to misunderstand (**Matthew 16:5-6**).

1. Those misunderstandings often bring about discussions (**Matthew 16:7**).

2. Jesus expects us to never be “in the moment” thinkers who do not consider all we know/can know on subject matters (**Matthew 16:8-12**).

B. We have to be cautious not to make unnecessary inferences for they will hurt us and cause the spread of false information (**John 21:20-23**).

1. We cannot just jump to a conclusion on anything without fully studying/reasoning it out (**John 5:18; 30-39**).

2. Remember, part of learning is the ability to reason (**Acts 17:2-3; 18:4**).

II. Body: Think Of Some Of The False Conclusions You’d Reach By Just Plucking Scriptures Out Of Their Contexts And Not Considering Other Scriptures On The Subject Matter (**Matthew 22:23-32**)...

A. You could conclude that you must never sleep (**I Thessalonians 5:6**).

1. The point about not sleeping from this verse, in it’s proper context (**I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**), was alertness and preparedness (**Matthew 25:1-13** and **Romans 13:11-14**).

2. Using other Scriptures, we know that physical rest is necessary (**Ecclesiastes 5:12** and **Mark 6:31**).

3. Yet, if you are unreasonable you could continue to twist Scriptures to try and prove that we should always be awake.

a. **Proverbs 6:4**; ignoring context.

b. **Luke 22:46**; ignoring context.

c. **John 11:11**; ignoring context.

d. **I Corinthians 15:51**; ignoring context.

B. You could conclude that you must pray 24/7 (**Luke 18:1**, **Luke 21:36**, and **I Thessalonians 5:17**).

1. We know this is not literal for Jesus Himself “ceased praying” (**Luke 11:1**).

2. Reasonable people understand that Jesus was not “always” praying. Ex. He had to go and pray because He was not always in prayer (**Mark 1:35** and **Luke 9:28**).

3. Being reasonable you KNOW you cannot pray 24/7 for such would prevent other things (**Ephesians 4:15; 25**, **II Thessalonians 3:10**, etc.).

C. If something is physically wrong with you, it is because you or your parents have sinned (**John 9:2** and **Acts 28:1-4**).

1. Contextually, their conclusions were false (**John 9:1-7**).
2. Had they known the Scriptures, they would have not come to those conclusions (**Ecclesiastes 9:1-12**).
3. Yet, an incorrect understanding of Scriptures can lead to that thinking (ex. **Jeremiah 29:11**, and **Romans 8:28** out of their contexts).

D. Men cannot touch women (**I Corinthians 7:1**).

1. Contextually, that conclusion is false (**I Corinthians 6:15-7:5**).
2. Other Scriptures certainly make the conclusion that a man cannot touch a woman a false conclusion (**Proverbs 5:18-19** and **Hebrews 13:4**).

III. Conclusion: Do you get it? It is easy to twist Scriptures, take them out of context, etc. Be careful (**II Peter 3:15-18**)!