

How to Develop an Inquiring Mind
September 23 & 26
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Observation: “The act or faculty of taking notice; the act or result of considering or marking attentively.” Webster’s Dictionary

Developing an inquiring mind will greatly increase our knowledge and understanding of Scripture. Every word in the passage is a detail in itself, but discovering the relative merit and meaning of the detail requires thought and effort. The goal is to identify the leading characters, the dominant idea (central, unifying thought or subject) and the major actions.

The best way to discover detail is to use Kipling’s “six serving men.”
Rudyard Kipling, “I have six serving men that have taught me all I know, these are, Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why?”

1. **Who?**
Who is speaking, being spoken to or being spoken about?
Who is doing the action that is described?
Who is the recipient or object of the action?
2. **What?**
What is being said by or about that person? What information about them is given?
What are they doing or saying?
What event occurred and what did it involve?
3. **Where?**
Where did it happen? Where did they come from?
Where did they go? How did the location affect the action?
4. **When?**
When did it happen? When did they live?
What kind of times (people) were those? In what order did things occur?
5. **How?**
How are they doing the act? How did it all happen?
How did they become like they are portrayed?
6. **Why?**
Why did they do or say what they did? Why did a certain thing happen?
Why is this information recorded? What motives or attitudes are evident?
Does the author explain or provide an “authoritative” answer to why?

These six questions should be written down and applied to a passage until they become ingrained in our thinking. They should become an automatic, unconscious process in our approach to every passage.

Look for: Who? What? Where? When? How? Why? In Luke 5:27-32

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. ²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." (ESV)

The following are some representative questions,

1. When did the incident take place? 5:27 (5:22-26)
2. Where did the incident take place? 5:27-29
3. What did Jesus do and say? 27
4. What did Levi do? 28-29
5. Who all attended the reception? 29-30
6. How did they respond/react to what Jesus said? 30
7. How did Jesus answer or what did He say to them? 31
8. To whom are the well and the sick compared? 31-32
9. To (for) whom did Jesus come? 32
10. To what did Jesus call them? 32

The application of these six questions to Luke 5:27-32.

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1. When did it happen? <i>After this</i>	27
2. After what? <i>Healing of paralytic</i>	22-26
3. What did Jesus do? (Three things!) <i>Went out, saw, said to him</i>	27
4. What did He say? <i>Follow me.</i>	
5. To whom did He say it? <i>Levi</i>	
6. What did Levi do? <i>Left everything, rose, followed him,</i>	28
7. What did Levi give? <i>Great feast, (a party for social outcasts!)</i>	29
8. For whom did he give it? <i>"Him"</i>	29
9. Where did he give it? <i>In his house,</i>	29
10. Who attended the reception? <i>Large crowd, tax-gatherers, others,</i>	29
11. Who else was on hand and observing? <i>Pharisees and their scribes,</i>	30
12. What did the Pharisees and scribes do? <i>Grumbled,</i>	30
13. Why did they grumble? <i>saying ...</i>	30
14. At whom did they grumble? <i>His disciples,</i>	30
15. Who answered them? <i>Jesus,</i>	31
16. How did He answer or what did He say to them?	31
17. Who is compared or contrasted in His answer?	31-32
18. To whom are the well and the sick compared? <i>Pharisees & sinners</i>	31-32
19. To (for) whom did Jesus come? <i>sinners</i>	32
20. To what did He call them? <i>repentance</i>	32

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1. When did it happen? 27
2. After what? 22-26
3. What did Jesus do? (3 things) 27
4. What did He say?
5. To whom did He say it?
6. What did Levi do? (3 things) 28-29
7. Where did this happen? 29
8. Who attended the reception? 29
9. Who else was on hand and observing? 30
10. What did the Pharisees and scribes do? 30
11. At whom did they grumble? 30
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