Literary Context

Word Study

Context of the Passage

- What is the context of the passage?
- Note the surrounding context of the passage
- Dangers of ignoring the literary context

Context of the Passage

- Acts 1:7-8
- What is the context of this passage that leads to the announcement of Jesus?
- What would we miss if we do not read Acts 1:1-6?

Word Study

- Purpose of doing word study
  - Words have several meaning
  - Important to determine the meaning of a word
  - Usage determines the meaning; not the meaning the usage

Word Study

Steps for doing word study

***1) Identify the significant words in the passage* – not all words need to be studies.**

- **What are the words are significant?**
  - **1 Thess 4:4 – vessel = wife, body, sexual organ?;**
  - **James 4:4 – adulteresses = literal or metaphorical?**
  - **1 Cor 7:1 – to touch a woman = merely to touch in some fashion? To marry? To have sexual relation? To have sex as procreation? To have sex as gratification of one's desire?**
- **What are some of the words that are repeated in the paragraph?**
  - **Matt 10:34-39 – worthy of me, peace and sword as opposite theme**
  - **Eph 1:3-14 – in Christ**
  - **James 4:4 – friend and friendship vs. enemy and enmity**
  - **Phil 3 – gain and loss**
- **Be careful of the words that occur only once and 2x in the passage (hapaxlegomena).**

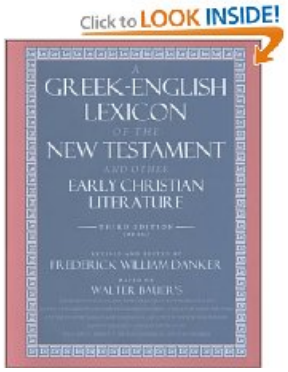
- Be alert for words that you are so familiar with, especially theological words – eg, grace.
- Need to be careful of the wider context. Eg. "blessings" in Eph 1:3. The blessing refers to is further expounded in the following verses.
- Sometimes it might be helpful to look at word in other forms
- Be careful or compound words – eg ekklesia/church.

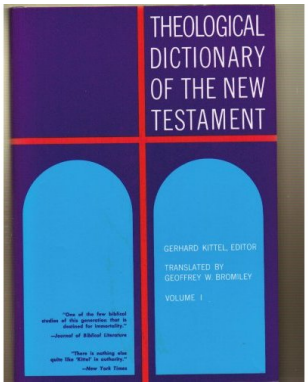
2) Determine the ranges of meaning of the words

- throughout the bible. Remember that the use of a word in different context determines its meaning.
  - In the letter/book
  - In the gospels/Pauline writings
  - In the NT
  - In the LXX
- Others living contemporary with the author

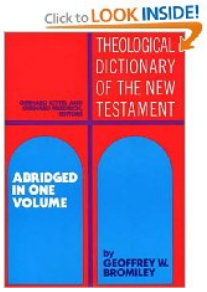
3) Consult lexicon and dictionaries

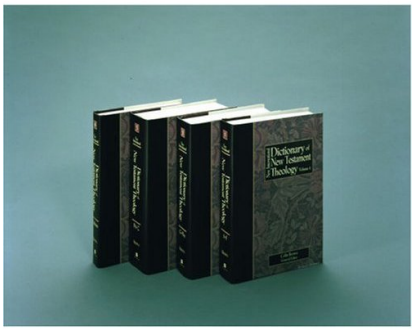
- Greek
  - Consult BDAG
  - Consult NIDNTT
  - Consult TDNT
  - Consult EDNT

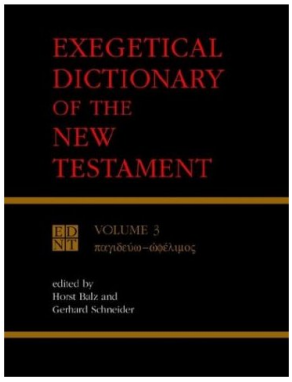




NOT THE ABRIDGED VERSION







4) Determine the meaning of the word in the specific context

- the most important part of the study – don't treat this lightly. This will affect the way you interpret the text, and then the application of the text.
- Based on your research, the theme and argument of the author in the passage, which one of the possible meanings you have observed best fits the context?
- Is there a new meaning or nuance in this particular passage?
- Present your conclusion!

- **Some dangers to watch out for in doing word study.**
  - ***be careful about the root of the word***
  - ***be careful of compound words***
  - ***remember that the meaning of word changed overtime***
  - ***be careful when words with similar meanings are used interchangeably***
  - ***Be careful about statistics.***

Word Study

- Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Luke 10:25-37
- See Luke 10:33 – note the word "took pity" or "had compassion"
- How many times does this word appear in the NT?
- Ref to concordance and bible software (eg. Bibleworks, Accordance, Logos)

- Check lexicon: BDAG
- Check dictionaries: TDNT

Word Study: An Exercise

· σπλαγχνίζομαι *splanchnizomai*

as appears in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Word Study: An Exercise

· σπλαγχνίζομαι *splagchnizomai*

- Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 18:27; 20:34;
- Mk. 1:41; 6:34; 8:2; 9:22;
- Lk. 7:13; 10:33; 15:20

Word Study

- What is the context σπλαγχνίζομαι *splagchnizomai* is used in each of the passages?
- Who demostrate(s) σπλαγχνίζομαι *splagchnizomai*?
- What are some of the significance you notice?
- What does this tell you about the attitude of the Samaritan?

Word Study

Passage	Context?	Who demontrate/s compassion?
Matt 9:36		
Matt 14:14		
Matt 15:32		

παραδίδωμι

- Do a study on the word, *paradidomi*, παραδίδωμι in the context of 1 Cor 9:23

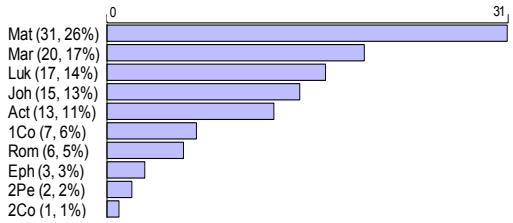
- What then does Paul mean when he uses the word παραδίδωμι in 1 Cor 11:23?
- Is Jesus being ***handed over/delivered up*** by God? OR is Jesus being ***betrayed*** (by Judas)?
- For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread…(ESV)

- For it was handed down to me from the Lord, as I gave it to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when Judas was false to him, took bread.. (BBE)
- I received from the Lord, that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus, in the night in which he was delivered up, took bread, (Darby Bible)

- For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread (New American Bible)
- For I -- I received from the Lord that which also I did deliver to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was delivered up, took bread, (Young's Literal Translation)

παραδίδωμι

- The word, ***paradidomi***, παραδίδωμι appears 119X in the NT



- Matt. 4:12; 5:25; 10:4, 17, 19, 21; 11:27; 17:22; 18:34; 20:18f; 24:9f; 25:14, 20, 22; 26:2, 15f, 21, 23ff, 45f, 48; 27:2ff, 18, 26;
- Mk. 1:14; 3:19; 4:29; 7:13; 9:31; 10:33; 13:9, 11f; 14:10f, 18, 21, 41f, 44; 15:1, 10, 15;
- Lk. 1:2; 4:6; 9:44; 10:22; 12:58; 18:32; 20:20; 21:12, 16; 22:4, 6, 21f, 48; 23:25; 24:7, 20;
- Jn. 6:64, 71; 12:4; 13:2, 11, 21; 18:2, 5, 30, 35f; 19:11, 16, 30; 21:20;
- Acts 3:13; 6:14; 7:42; 8:3; 12:4; 14:26; 15:26, 40; 16:4; 21:11; 22:4; 27:1; 28:17;

- Rom. 1:24, 26, 28; 4:25; 6:17; 8:32;
- 1 Co. 5:5; 11:2, 23; 13:3; 15:3, 24;
- 2 Co. 4:11;
- Gal. 2:20;
- Eph. 4:19; 5:2, 25;
- 1 Tim. 1:20;
- 1 Pet. 2:23; 2 Pet. 2:4, 21; Jude 1:3

- Range of Meanings:
- 1) to handover, to deliver something/ someone that one has a strong personal interest
- 2) to pass on to another what one knows, whether oral or written
- 3)to betray someone

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- Questions:
- How does Paul use this word elsewhere in his writings?
- Has Paul ever considered Jesus as "being betrayed" in his letters?
- Does Paul give a "theological" interpretation for the death of Jesus?