***December 16, 2018***

***Today’s Lesson: Our Story***

**From Mike:**

Are you sick of hearing all the discussion about the old Christmas classic “Baby, It’s Cold Outside”? In my opinion, it’s a silly example of our hyper-sensitive, politically correct, blame-driven, accusatory culture right now! So, am I going to add to the mess of arguing about it that has swamped social media? No—oops, too late! But, being who I am and what I do—can I offer up a lesson? If people can misinterpret and misjudge the lyrics and intent of a seventy year-old Christmas song, what are the chances that we might do the same to something written in a totally foreign culture that existed two thousand years ago?

Over time, not only does the meaning of a word change, often becoming archaic, like some fifteen hundred words in the original King James Version of the Bible, but cultural attitudes, values, and perspectives change drastically too. Remember another Christmas song that talked about having a “gay” time? It still means what it always meant—it just has a different meaning to many folks today. What will future historians say about that song when they try to interpret the world when it was written?

I’m not suggesting that the Bible is full of things we can’t fully understand or interpret. I’m saying that we need to allow for the fact that we are not reading it with the same eyes as those people who wrote it and read it in the first century. Many of the things that are controversial or divisive in our interpretation of scripture weren’t that way to the folks for whom it was originally directed. That is why I made one of my rules of interpreting the Bible; How did the original audience understand this? Why? Because things change.

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