

A sunset over a lake with silhouettes of people in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and dark blue. The water reflects the sunset. In the foreground, two people are silhouetted against the water, one appears to be washing the other's feet. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A More Noble

SERVANT

How Do You Read?

- **Two Problems:**
 - **We carry our baggage to the text!**
 - **We are interpreting a book that was written by about 40 authors over about 3000 years and many cultures.**

Suggestions for fruitful Bible Study:

- 1. Open-minded (Matt 13:23: "good soil")**
- 2. Prayerfully: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).**
- 3. Read it Humbly: "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and of discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12).**

Suggestions for fruitful Bible Study:

- 4. Read for what it meant to the original reader before trying to ask what it means to you.**
- 5. Read it contextually: verse, chapter, book, author, Testament, whole Bible.**
- 6. Read it with the story in mind**

Suggestions for fruitful Bible Study:

7. Read the Old Testament as a Christian! (See Matt 5:17)

8. Read for quotations and echoes from the Old Testament themes

9. Read it for personal application: God is still speaking through his word.