“The Text in Their Town”

• The meaning of the text in the original context

• Our interpretation must be consistent with historical-cultural context of the passage.
Historical-Cultural Context:

- Any information outside the text that will help you understand the text itself.
- Biblical Writer
- Biblical Audience
- Other historical-cultural elements: e.g. geography, topography, economics, social customs, politics…
DANGERS

• Inaccurate information

• Elevating the background information above the meaning of the text

• Making background study the end rather than the means of understanding.
Sources for Studying H-C Context

• Primary Sources – Other extra-biblical writings from the ancient world.

e.g. The Works of Josephus
Sources for Studying H-C Context

• Secondary Sources
  - Bible Handbooks
  - Old & New Testament Introductions/Surveys
  - Bible Atlases, Dictionaries & Encyclopedias
  - Commentaries
  - Study Bibles *
Exercise:


2. 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 – Meat sold in the market

3. Mark 11:15-19 – Cleansing the Temple
Literary Context

• **Genre**
  N.T. – Gospels, Historical Narrative, Epistles, Prophetic/Apocalyptic
  O.T. – Historical Narrative, Poetry, Wisdom, Prophetic/Apocalyptic
Literary Context

• Surrounding Context
• Immediate Context
Literary Context

• Surrounding Context
• Immediate Context
• Expository & Topical Teaching/Preaching