

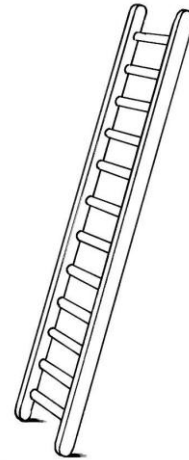
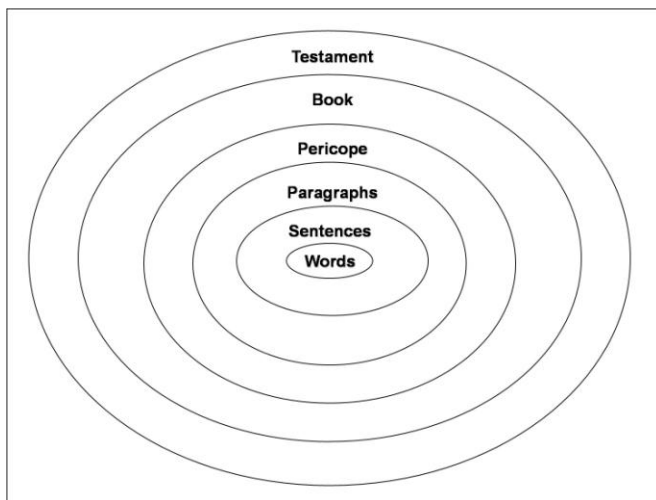
Literary Context

“You keep using that word ~~verse~~.
I do not think it means what you think it means.”



I. What Is Literary Context?

Literary Context: the words, sentences, paragraphs, chapters, and books that surround and relate to a text.



II. Six Principles for Understanding Literary Context

1. Interpret single verses in light of their immediate context.
2. Interpret paragraphs and episodes in light of the paragraphs or events around them.
3. Try to determine why your text belongs precisely where it is, and nowhere else.

4. Look for thematic statements that introduce or interpret an entire section.

5. Look for repeated words or phrases.

6. Discern how this passage helps accomplish the author's purpose for writing this section, and for writing the book as a whole.

III. Application: Matthew 5:39