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Introductory Scriptures (Mark 16:15; Luke 4:18-19)

Review Questions

1. What is preaching? – the proclamation of the Gospel
2. What is teaching? – the communication of truth
3. What is exegesis? – the process of drawing the meaning out of a text (Good!)
4. What is eisegesis? – the process of importing a meaning into a text (Bad!)
5. What is homiletics? – the art of preaching
6. What is hermeneutics? – the science and art of interpreting Scripture
7. Which is more important: style or content?

Content is more important. According to Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake, a well-prepared sermon will succeed no matter what we do. Please read the short discussion of “whooping” which can be found at www.wilfredgraves.org/preaching.

8. Preaching Quotations:

- a. Preaching is a human attempt to bring a word from the Lord.
- b. The primary purpose of preaching is to proclaim the adventure of knowing Christ.
- c. There is a fundamental lack of passionate preaching in a majority of the pulpits in our land Expository preaching of the Bible often is replaced by topical oratory that is little more than anecdotes threaded together on a thin popular theme to entertain and assure popularity.
- d. The best way to revive a church is to build a fire in the pulpit (Dwight L. Moody).
- e. The Word goeth out of the mouth of God in such a manner that it likewise goeth out of the mouth of men; for God [usually] does not speak openly from heaven but employs men as his instruments
- f. Great preaching is the result of one hour in preparation for each minute in the pulpit.
- g. What do you think about the following poem?

His sermon had the usual heads
And subdivisions fine;
The language was delicate
And graceful as a vine.
It had its proper opening
‘Twas polished as a whole
It had but one supreme defect—
It failed to reach the soul

- h. We preach what is real to us in our own prayers.
- i. A black preacher is a wordsmith, an artist who paints with words, whose palate is a mix, often a flamboyant mix, of color and texture.

9. What are the different types of sermons that a person can preach?

THE TOPICAL SERMON

- "Should a Christian Play the Lottery?"
- "How Can We Pray More Effectively?"

THE TEXTUAL SERMON

A sermon that takes its theme and main divisions from a verse or a short passage (one to three verses)—e.g. “The Secret of a Carefree Life” (1 Pet. 5:7)

THE EXPOSITORY SERMON

An expository sermon uses a longer portion of Scripture (perhaps ten verses or a chapter). Its theme or subject comes from the passage.

* There are other types of sermons, but typically they fall into the above categories.

Sermon Preparation Tips (By Dave Redik—Found on the Internet)

1. Plan for uninterrupted preparation time.
2. Get a good personal computer and learn to use it.
 - Word Processing (e.g., Microsoft Word)
 - Microsoft PowerPoint
 - File Storage
 - Bible Software
 - Sermon Illustrations
 - Bible Dictionaries
 - Bible Commentaries
 - Surfing the Web
3. Plan your preaching ahead of time.
 - Avoid last minute preparation if at all possible.
 - Pastors can set up a schedule of preaching.
4. Join a sermon study group.
5. Break up your task into logical parts.
 - *Monday*: Decide on preaching portion and theme. Read the portion through many times. Look for homiletic clues. Pray.
 - *Tuesday*: Outline the passage and do commentary work. Pray.
 - *Wednesday*: Settle on central idea, final outline, and main points. Collect illustrations. Pray.
 - *Thursday*: Write sermon draft. Name the sermon. Pray.
 - *Friday*: Go fishing, mow the lawn, and take the wife to dinner. Don't write sermons. Pray.
 - *Saturday*: Finalize sermon and prepare support material (overheads, handouts, etc.) Pray.
 - *Sunday*: Go over sermon in early morning, pray and preach!
6. Listen frequently to the preaching of others.
7. Find a mentor or a peer who will challenge you.

CONSTRUCTING A SERMON

1. Pray and meditate on the Word.
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to give you an impulse.
3. Choose a text.
4. Understand the text. Commentaries or other tools may help you.
5. Focus on a few key ideas in the text.
6. In a sentence, what is the theme of the passage?
7. In a sentence, what is the purpose of your sermon?
8. Choose a title related to the theme of the text and the purpose of your sermon.
9. Write a sermon outline:

Introductory Remarks (Honor God, Leadership, Spouse ...)

Text, Prayer or Prayer, Text

Subject of Message (i.e., Sermon Title)

Sermon Introduction (Illustration, Reason for Preaching ...)

Definitions (If you need to define a few key terms)

Sermon Body (3 points, exposition of text ...)

Applications/Conclusion/Celebration

Sample Sermon Outline

NAME: Elder Wilfred Graves, Jr.

DATE: October 15, 2007

TITLE: “Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord: Characteristics of Genuine Worship”

TEXT: Psalm 100

THEME: God, the focus of our worship, requires his people to offer to him a sacrifice of dynamic and exuberant praise in an attitude of reverence, joy, and thankfulness.

PURPOSE: To encourage the people to allow God to stretch the boundaries of their present worship practices.

OUTLINE

Introduction: Local church receives citation for excessive praise

I. Worship—its definition and its significance

II. Aspects of worship revealed in the passage

A. Worship must be done in the right attitude

1. Examples of acceptable attitudes
2. Personal challenges to maintaining the right attitude and historical exegesis of Israel’s situation
3. Contemporary, personal illustration of maintaining a right attitude—my mother’s illness

B. True worship must have a dynamic dimension

1. Noise is important
2. Personal challenges to making noise

C. Genuine worship is God-focused

1. Our posture before God
2. The purpose and results of genuine worship

III. Conclusion

IV. Celebration

A detailed outline can be found on the next page.

INTRODUCTORY POINTS

- Beginning Example: Local church receives citation for excessive praise.
- An awesome God deserves heartfelt worship.
- Bishop Blake has said on a number of occasions that we need a religion that can be felt. If we can have it and not feel it, we can lose it and not miss it.
- Psalm 100 describes the worship process quite beautifully as an entrance into the presence of God with ever increasing nearness and ever deepening intimacy.

“WORSHIP”—A DEFINITION AND SELECTED COMMENTS

To worship is “to revere, to honor, or to respect greatly.” In Hebrew, the term means to work or to perform acts of service. The word always occurs in Psalms in relation to a royal or kingly figure (i.e., God). Psalm 100 reminds us that God is the Sovereign over the entire universe. And a cosmic King deserves nothing less than a cosmic response of pure, unadulterated worship.

Nothing short of the total surrender of our lives to God counts as worship. We were created to worship God—to serve him wholeheartedly. Our hearts, our minds, our bodies, our emotions, our wills... Every part of us needs to be involved in the worship process. Psalm 100 summons us to a lifestyle of joyful, enthusiastic, and dynamic worship.

WHAT PSALM 100 TEACHES US ABOUT WORSHIP

Point 1

Worship must be done in the right attitude. When there is no gladness in us, there is no acceptance with God. A proper attitude in our worship is a response to the goodness and the faithfulness of God.

Example: My mother taught me a lot about worship during an extended sickness.

Point 2

Psalm 100 declares the necessity of audible, dynamic praise. There is nothing wrong with showing a little enthusiasm for the things that we are excited about. A joyful noise comes from the very depths of our being in response to our excitement over the Living God.

Example: We make noise during ball games and about things that are important. God is of utmost importance and deserves noisy worship.

Point 3

Genuine worship is **God-focused**. The aim of worship is not to make us feel good. The aim of worship is to exalt and to glorify God. Start focusing your attention on God and on him alone. You should start worshipping and praising God today like you never have before, for our God is truly worthy of our highest devotion.

Example: Reference a time when I focused on God in worship.

CONCLUSION

I want to conclude this message by exhorting you to make a joyful noise to the Lord. You may not receive a citation for disturbing the peace like the little black church that I mentioned earlier, but your exuberance is a response that God requires in Psalm 100. As I have said repeatedly, God is truly worthy of all the reverential enthusiasm that we can muster and more. So make a joyful noise to the Lord today.

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