

General Topics :: Preaching 101: What To Preach

**Preaching 101: What To Preach - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/17 9:08**

2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Much bad preaching these days can be attributed to a simple problem: The preacher talks about whatever he wants to talk about, nevermind the passage of Scripture he is speaking from. His sermon would have been just the same should he have preached from either Genesis 1 or Psalm 23. In my decade as a Christian, I have heard many sermons, both good and bad. However, one thing I've noticed about almost every bad sermon I have heard is that the preacher refuses to let the text before them speak for itself. If they were to do this, there is no way they could deliver the same message from preaching out of Genesis 1 as they could if they preached out of Psalm 23.

Many young preachers are often at a loss for what it is they are supposed to preach. Indeed, many older preachers are too! However, I think the words of the apostle Paul above are clear enough: whatever it is we preach, we are to speak out of the content of the apostolic faith. The content of that apostolic faith is contained within the canon of Scripture. So, if the Lord leads you to preach from Psalm 23... preach from Psalm 23! Likewise, if the Lord leads you to preach from Genesis 1... preach from Genesis 1!

Whatever the passage you are preaching from says... say it yourself. Whatever the passage you are preaching from seems to emphasize... emphasize it yourself. In short, say whatever it says, and apply it however it says to apply it. Stick to the text! Let the text be your sermon outline, and pray that the Holy Spirit helps you to amplify the text to whosoever your audience may be.

**Re: Preaching 101: What To Preach - posted by enid, on: 2008/6/17 9:17**

Know what you mean. When you hear preachers preach a message that is totally unrelated to the text.

Seems like the Bible is used as a prop for the message.

But God is God, and it is His glory that should be our goal.

**Re: Preaching 101: What To Preach - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/17 9:18**

Quote:  
-----Stick to the text! Let the text be your sermon outline, and pray that the Holy Spirit helps you to amplify the text to whosoever your audience may be.  
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*And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 1Co 2:4,5*

**Re: - posted by Fuegodedios (), on: 2008/6/17 9:26**

Bad preaching has been the enemy of Good preaching for a long time. I preach in a lot of prisons and most of those guys get a candy and Ice cream Gospel. When you preach what the text says they look at you like "hey when are we going to start jumping and shouting" I want you to pronounce a blessing, lay hands on me, see angels they want you to entertain them feed their soul not their spirit. This is because bad preaching has made people so dull and opposed to the true gospel and the proper exegesis of text. and if you preach Revelation 20 my goodness they think your mad.

**Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/6/17 10:31**

Quote:

-----Seems like the Bible is used as a prop for the message.  
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This has been referred to as the "springboard" method. (I admit, sometimes our conversations can get like that too :-o)  
Diane

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/17 12:30**

Quote:

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This has been referred to as the "springboard" method.  
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Indeed. When one uses the springboard method to preach, one simply has a sermon in search of any text that will do. And because of technology these days, finding a text that will fit your sermon isn't very hard to do. And if one is lucky enough, they can spiritualize the passage to mean whatever it is they want it to mean. Toss in some alliteration, add some raz-ma-taz, pepper with some old cliches, and wam-bam-thank-you-ma'am, you have something that people will confuse as a sermon.

It grieves me when such passes for a sermon today. It grieves me any more when such preachers get paid to do it. I remember after hearing one such sermon recently, that had I given any money in the offering that night, I would have asked for a refund for having to have listened to such junk.

**Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2008/6/17 13:45**

John Piper's "The Supremacy of God in Preaching"-is a wonderful book pertaining to this topic. The first chapter is simply amazing. The basis of the book is around the life of Jonathan Edwards, and how he preached, but he does indeed talk about what it is that we are supposed to preach, and how so. It is a wonderful book.

**Re: Preaching 101: What To Preach, on: 2008/6/17 14:35**

I am enjoying and learning from this thread. It seems to be very much "without guile", and simple, in a way that provides clarity.

The scripture that was quoted, in 2 Timothy however, has to do with teaching; instruction. not necessarily Preaching. We often forget that the early Church would look at you in bewilderment if you drug a pulpit in front of them, and began to speak down from it, and would be astounded if you implied that one man would consume 95% of the time of their gathering together.

It seemed that when the Holy Spirit was present, the entire *Body* participated, with those considered weak, often, as the

the primary ministers. "One has a testimony,, one has a revelation, a prophesy, one has a teaching!....it was a body affair, men and women orchestrating the living hand of God Himself, as the holy Spirit moved upon all.

Of course, scripture proves out that there were instances when the Apostolic voice did dominate, as when the young man broke his neck after falling in sleep, as Paul went on and on. This was probably teaching and warnings, not necessarily Preaching.

The Word speaks of those who have an ear, let Him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches. Preaching is not necessarily directly from specific scriptures, at all. When A man or a woman testifies of the absolute Lordship of Jesus of Nazareth, and instills faith in the listeners about His Glory, perhaps hundreds of scriptures would be applicable, and perhaps a Bible would never be opened, but yet, it would be entirely and completely inspired and anointed by Jesus Himself.

This is how I see Preaching, myself. Yes, there may be a scripture, or a burden expressed within my heart, yet the outward expression of this Word, or "unction" of it, is up to me, as he leads. An illiterate man can be of the ilk of an Appollo, or a Spurgeon, for the unction, or anointing is of God alone, not squeezed into a carton of man's parameters. Remember, one half of the world is functionally illiterate. Are they doomed never to preach? Of course not. , and to prove His love for them as the individual...that God loved them very much as a person; WHOEVER they happened to be, or their social status.

I purposely waited, often not knowing what or how I would say anything, until after I was introduced, and I had to begin expressing my burden. The Bible was secondary to the unction. The Bible was paramount in Spirit, and I often quoted many scriptures as I spoke, and I don't believe I once contradicted it. *The Word and the Spirit agree..*

I have stood upon a rock, and opened my mouth to preach to crowds that have never heard the Gospel; not once. I began with Genesis, and somehow got to a Godman, that took our sins away. I would, after a while, ask those who believed, to stay, and to come forward, to confess their new faith in the Godman, Jesus. Some would, some left. As they confessed their desire for Him to come, He did, and often with visible Holy Ghost Power, with signs. These weak did, and were born again. They were given Pastors to nurture them.

This was, and to date the purist form of preaching I've ever done. All with no Bible, but I did have the living Word within. The Spirit and the Word agree. I love the Bible, and to hear anointed exposition of it, yet in itself, without the Spirit, can be sounding brass; it can even kill.

In the early church there wasn't the idea of sitting silent waiting to get, but to participate in what was given, by God Himself. It was all Christ centered. The meeting, that we call Church, wasn't Church at all to them. Church was the unseen union and love with those who also had been redeemed in their local area, with whom they depended on, served, and lived with, as a child serves his parents. They loved to eat together, and be with each other. The idea of the handshake and hug in the hallway each Sunday when departing was preposterous to them, as much as we would say to our babies after we tucked them in. The meeting followed the union, not the other way around.

Our idea of someone preaching to us all of the time, would be just as odd.

**Preaching is the proclamation and emission of Faith and Truth from the lips of men.**

**Re: - posted by Ruach34 (), on: 2008/6/17 17:22**

I agree Fuego. Have not spent a lot of time in the prisons, but in the homeless shelters. There isn't a lot of hearty amens when you talk about men being tombs filled with dead mens bones, even whitewashing them to look better.

but, should we not remain faithful to the call of Christ who started his preaching tour with "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"

Brother Tom, AMEN.

Quote:  
-----It seemed that when the Holy Spirit was present, the entire Body participated, with those considered weak, often, as the primary ministers. "One has a testimony,, one has a revelation, a prophesy, one has a teaching!....it was a body affair, men and women orchestrating the living h and of God Himself, as the holy Spirit moved upon all.  
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Emphasis on, when the Holy Spirit was present...

Could it be, could it possibly be that there is a national delusion that men/women, even leaders think they are 'baptized i n the Holy Spirit' but really are not? The Holy Spirit does not bring raz-ma-tazz and a BAM for emphasis, nor can He bri ng a gospel without power.

Is this the sad fact of unreality in our buildings we call 'church'?

Have many called what is actually evil, the Holy Spirit and what is the Holy Spirit, evil? This is blasphemy from which th ere is no rescue...

Didn't mean to cast any kind of mood on this post...can anyone identify or witness to what I've said?

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/17 18:09**

Just for clarification here, by "preaching," I really had in mind the standard sermon/sunday school lesson/lecture format where exposition on the Scriptures are given.

Though, technically speaking, such isn't "preaching," as the word "preaching" comes from the greek word that means "to proclaim," and is generally looked at as something you do to non-believers, not the saved. When you "preach" to unbeli evers, you are not so much looking to offer expository comments on a given passage of Scripture (though you might do such). Rather, you are simply looking to broadcast the Good News of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God to those wh o have never heard that news, or at least, have yet to believe it.

Like Tom, I am also a proponent of the 1 Cor 14 model of church. However, I think there is still a place for a less sponta neous model or element to a service, where the gifted apostle/prophet/teacher speaks for long intervals with little to no i nterruption (save perhaps to dialogue on an issue).

My aim is simply to say, if you are going to preach out of the Bible, actually preach "out of" the Bible. :-)

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2008/6/17 18:14**

I'm listening to a sermon right now that is touching on some of these topics.

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid3336&commentViewItemComments>) Sound Doc trine or "Spiritualizing" by Art Katz

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/17 18:19**

I agree with just about anything brother Art says :-)

**Re: Preaching 101: What To Preach - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2008/6/17 22:25**

Preaching 101: Find sermons and outlines online and your set for a year. You never have to worry about opening up the Bible and praying to God for guidance and wisdom. Why worry about spending time in the Word when you could be watching sports on tv or drinking coffee with a few friends. Just print out the online sermon a half hour before church starts and your set for a move of the Holy Spirit like you've never seen.... :-o

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/17 22:30**

Or better yet, wait for the denomination to send you a sermon :-)

**Re: The denomination sent movie instead...a Sermon- movie!, on: 2008/6/18 6:49**

I've had my mind blown a time or two by the outrageous activities done in the arena of the "SERMON". I've seen circus's brought in with towers and skateboarders, Nubian half clad ballet dancers, dancing to classical music, , and even prophetic insight preached in the most odd of demonic religious manifestations, as the possessed one was brought up front to model it!

But as far as slick goes, let me relate a bit less obvious one, that got my attention.

I visited a friend, in another city, over a weekend, and went to His local assembly, that he had attended for some time ...T sat threw the usual, predictable niceities, the bulletin, offering number one, announcements, etc. Wow, I did it. Now, for the Word. I had my Bible ready to jump on any scriptures that may be referred to, and also to hide in, to read if the preaching deal got a little too boring. ...you know, catch up on some study,,etc.?

The Pastor came up, introduced himself, and gave a queue, and a movie screen slid down behind Him, and the show began! Very cool neocharismatic tunes began to waft throughout the auditorium, and as the Teacher opened His mouth, a scripture opened within the titles of a slide show, and a partial motion picture, with each and every scene, perfectly orchestrated with his every Word. I did not need my Bible. It was all right here, in the movie. I only had to enjoy! How cool, the Holy Spirit could can Himself! The Narrator, this Pastor, spoke about Him! Right while the Movie displayed the beauty and Pathos of this man of God.

How thoughtfull, to combine entertainment with the Gospel! Everyone was happy, and no one had to work too hard; after all, this was a day of rest.

The only problem that I saw, was that the Holy Spirit took a rest also.....somewhere else, He had went on a short vacation probably, to the broken and desperate!

Oh yeah, the movie. It ended well, and he never missed a beat. The offering #2 was big, I think, because everyone seemed so satisfied. It all went so well....so smooth. Everyone felt they had received a true revelation from God, and I would give it 4 and one half stars out of 5. Almost perfect. Another spirit-filled sunday. :roll:

We've came a long way baby.

**Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/18 9:45**

Just a brief thought to futher this subject... C.H. Spurgeon once said that every preaching should be a raising of the dead. I think many preachers forget that.

**Re: - posted by BenBrockway, on: 2008/6/18 15:06**

Quote:

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KingJimmy wrote:

Just a brief thought to futher this subject... C.H. Spurgeon once said that every preaching should be a raising of the dead. I think many preachers forget that.

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I totally agree. I think MOST preachers forget that, today.