

Preparation for Preaching

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Introduction:

A. We all need a sense of humor.

1. Someone told me a story of a lady who got lonely so bought a parrot.
2. It had been previously owned by a sailor.
3. She tried to retrain it, teaching it the Lord's Prayer.
4. One day she forgot to feed it and the parrot screamed at it.
5. She put it in the refrigerator for five minutes.
6. Another time she punished the parrot in the refrigerator for 15 minutes.
7. When he came out he asked the lady what the turkey in the refrigerator had said to deserve its punishment.

B. I want to talk to you about expository preaching.

1. Preaching has power.
2. It is the most powerful motivator in a congregation.
3. Artificial means of motivating people today is a confession of weak preaching.
4. We need to restore expository preaching.
 - a. We are working on a national conference on expository preaching.
 - b. Many famous expositors will be involved.
 - c. Many other seminars are planned.
 - d. Five are in the planning right now for 1984.
5. We believe the word of God has a unique and creative power.
6. I want to share on the method of preparing to preach.
 - a. Many pastors don't know how to prepare.
 - b. I want to share my own approach.

I. First I want to share the four marks of expository preaching by John Stott, author of *Between two Worlds*.

A. Other good books on preaching.

1. Haddon Robinson wrote a book and James Dean wrote, *Preaching with Confidence*.
2. D. Campbell Morgan also wrote on preaching.
3. Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones also wrote *Preaching and Preachers*.

A. What is expository preaching?

1. It is hard to define.

- a. Textual and topical preaching is different.
- b. Most preaching today is topical.
- c. Howard Hendricks preached last night a topical message that was the distillation of years of expository preaching.

B. Expository preaching has four marks.

1. It is thoughtful preaching.

- a. It awakens people to think about life and the world.
- b. The parables in Matthew 13 end with the word of a steward that brings out of his treasury things new and old.
- c. We don't have 20 centuries of church history but one century repeated 20 times.
- d. The truths of the word address problems of each generation.

2. It is courageous preaching.

- a. There is a need for courageous preaching.
- b. If we stay with a biblical truth long enough it will come around again.
- c. In the 1960s our school system departed from sound teaching methods and many children failed to learn to read. Today schools are returning to basic principles of teaching.
- d. We need to preach on the uncomfortable parts of Scripture as well as the popular ones.
- e. Women in society is a topic we need to address from the Bible.

3. It is sincere preaching.

a. We need to be passionate in preaching.

b. This needs to come from the heart.

4. It is humble preaching.

a. Pride is an occupational hazard of the preacher.

b. We need to avoid our own ideas on life.

c. We must grasp for words to communicate truth.

d. We will fail at times to communicate but we must go on.

e. True preaching cannot be divorced from the role of the pastor; though a message might be put together well it can fail if it lacks incarnation,

f. Preaching deals with life.

g. God is revealed in life.

h. Expository preaching derives its content from the Scripture itself. It discovers the intended meaning to have its effect on the hearers.

1. The text must be allowed to speak.

2. It is truth communicated through a preacher,

II. How do we prepare to preach?

A. It requires hard work.

1. We must think deeply about a text.

2. We must spend hours in our study for just 40 minutes of preaching.

B. I have outlined nine steps to prepare for preaching.

1. Choose a major passage of Scripture.

a. Perhaps a book of the Bible.

b. Preach on the Old Testament as well as the New.

c. The Sermon on the Mount, or the Upper room discourse of Jesus are good sections.

d. This will provide material for weeks and weeks.

e. Isaiah said we teach by applying here a little and there a little.

- d. Systematic preaching can be a source of heresy if not balanced correctly.
 1. Proof texting is dangerous.
 2. It sounds biblical but against the whole context of Scripture it is heretical.
2. Begin where people are.
 - a. If your church is young with people who don't know the Bible, well begin to teach the great themes of the Bible.
 - b. If your church is more mature teach sections they might not be acquainted with.
3. Make an outline of the book you are preaching on.
 - a. I outlined First Corinthians, following Paul's divisions.
 - b. Chapter one through 11 divides into three major sections.
 1. Pride.
 2. Lust.
 3. Life.
 - c. In chapter 12 Paul introduces the solution to the Corinthians' problems.
 - d. He closes with practical advice for spiritual living.
 - e. I need an outline in order to preach through a book.
 - f. John divides in to six sections.
 1. Chapter 1:1-18 is the prologue.
 2. Chapter 1:19 through chapter 4 is the manifestation of Messiah.
 3. Chapter 5 through 12 is the growing unbelief in the Messiah,
 4. Chapter 13-17 the Upper room discourse, God's plan for the church.
 5. Chapter 18-19 Murder of the Messiah.
 6. Chapter 20-21 post resurrection ministry.
4. Chose a manageable section to preach on.
 - a. It may be a few verses or a whole chapter.

- b. I must see a central theme.
 - c. I must be able to deliver the message in the time allotted.
 - d. The danger is to take too much and deliver it too quickly.
 - e. Lust and its problems in First Corinthians divides into three sections.
 - 1. Shameful immorality.
 - 2. Inappropriate litigation.
 - 3. Unholy prostitution.
 - a. Each of these sections requires its own message.
 - b. To cover all in one message is too much.
5. Check out the theological and linguistic problems of the section.
- a. Consult commentaries.
 - b. Get the historical context to avoid misapplications.
 - c. This sounds complicated but it's not.
6. Develop an exegetical outline.
- a. This is very helpful.
 - b. Mark what happens and to whom and for what reasons.
 - c. Outlines are logical developments of a text.
 - d. Put everything in the text in your outline though you will not preach everything.
7. Read commentaries for a flow of the thought.
- a. Pick your commentaries well.
 - b. Godet is good on John.
 - c. Do your own work before checking with a commentary.
8. Prepare preaching notes.
- a. This is based on the exegetical outline I have made.
 - b. Don't share all your preparations but only what is relevant to the audience.

- c. Communicate only what the text is saying to its hearers.
- d. Swindoll and Hendricks are good here.
- e. This part is time consuming.

9. Prepare your heart and your body.

- a. Don't stay up late Saturday night.
- b. Review your message on Sunday morning.
- c. Deliver the message with passion.
- d. Realize that you are delivering the wisdom of God.
- e. Use humor sparingly.
- f. Preaching is serious business; a life changing thing.