



Preaching

Contents

Lesson one	Preliminary observations about preaching
Lesson two	What is preaching?
Lesson three	Selecting a passage to preach from
Lesson four	Rules of interpretation
Lesson five	How to give a dynamic presentation
Lesson six	Sermon notes

Lesson one

Preliminary observation about preaching

- (1) Preaching is not merely human discourse:
 - A channel through which divine grace flows
 - The preacher becomes a vessel by which God mediates redemption and healing

- (2) Preaching is not merely a chosen activity of men:
 - Preachers and Teachers are placed in the Church by God
 - They are gifts from God to the Church
 - Their sermons are influenced by the working of the Holy Spirit
 - The word should be confirmed through accompanying signs

- (3) Preaching involves three entities:
 - The preacher, the hearer, the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit's part in it all is to:
 - Empower the preacher
 - Open the heart of the hearer
 - Confirm the message as God's Word

- (4) Preaching is a true part of Church Worship:
 - The spirit enables a feed-back response to the minister resulting in an act of worship
 - It may be the crowning event in the worship service

- (5) Preaching always comes under the devil's attack:
 - Paul urged the Church in Ephesus to pray for him that he might:
 - Know what to preach
 - Preach boldly and clearly

- (6) Preaching has a divine and human element to it:
 - Divine element much greater than the human element
 - Diligence in preparation is important
 - We must learn how to skilfully handle God's Word
 - Prayer is an important part of preparation

Lesson two

What is preaching?

- 1) Bringing the message of God from the Scriptures to the church and the world.
- 2) The servant of God standing under the authority of Scripture and proclaiming its truth.
- 3) Preaching demands the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Good preaching calls for a preacher to know God's Word and be sensitive to the needs of the people.
- 5) A sermon is like a meal:
The bread of life
Feeding man's soul
Reforming his being

What is intended?

- 1) Instruction
- 2) Persuasion
- 3) Motivation

Better sermons display some combination of all three.

- 1) Instruction - Instructing people as to the meaning of the passage.
(Addressing the mind)
- 2) Persuasion - Reason with people to persuade them of the validity of a teaching or its importance.
(Addressing the imagination)
- 3) Motivation - Move people to commitment or action.
(Addressing the will)

What shapes a preacher's intention?

- 1) The chosen passage or Scripture
- 2) The audience you are speaking to

• The chosen passage

Example of instruction	John 10: 34-38	Need for explanation
Example of persuasion	Prov. 30: 8-9	Calls for persuasion
Example of motivation	Eph, 3: 20-21	Passage of praise

- **The audience**

How much instruction do they require?

Are your audience sceptical or overflowing in faith?

Have they travelled a long or short path of obedience?

GOOD PREACHING TAKES AIM BEFORE IT LETS THE ARROW FLY.

Speaking styles

Instructing (Teaching) style - Persuading style - Motivating (Moving) style

Each style includes a combination of elements or qualities:

Clarity - Interest - Evocative language - Energy - Emotion

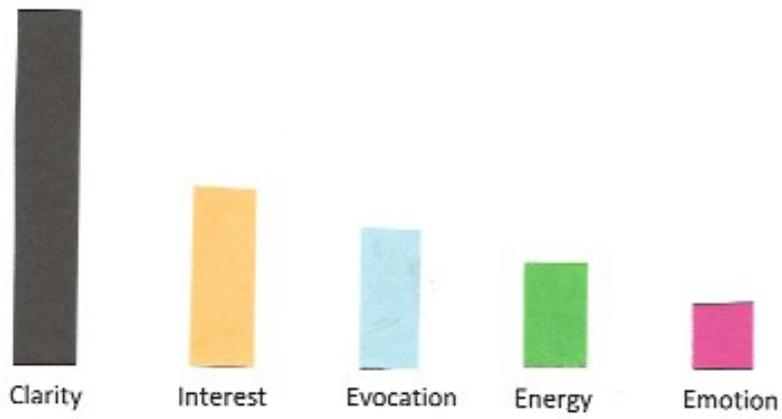
Each element can be described by certain characteristics of language.

- 1) Clarity**
 - a) Bringing the thoughts of a sermon to the mind and heart of the listener.
 - b) Convincing ideas presented in a logical manner.
 - c) You can have good structure but poor language.
 - d) Clarity is of vital importance.
- 2) Interest**
 - a) Boring sermons have short life span.
 - b) Good content, faithful to Scripture, if not interesting will not be heard.
 - c) Build interest into a sermon - listeners interest level rises.
- 3) Evocation**
 - a) Evocative language brings thought to life and gives it a visible tangible quality.
 - b) It appeals to the listener's memory and experience.
 - c) When a speaker communicates a new idea in a manner that connects it to what a person already perceives, they foster understanding.
 - d) Language may do that by painting a word picture.
- 4) Energy**
 - a) Casual preaching strolls through the park on a balmy afternoon.
 - b) Energetic speech bustles like a marketplace.
 - c) Big problem today - great themes are expressed in a bland style.
- 5) Emotion**

The language of emotion, more than the other elements is better caught than taught. Emotion courses through the heart and life of a person. People do show a unity of response.

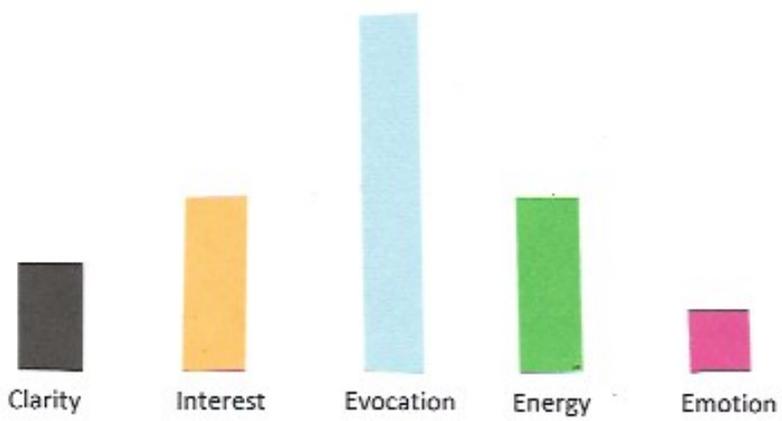
THE TEACHING STYLE

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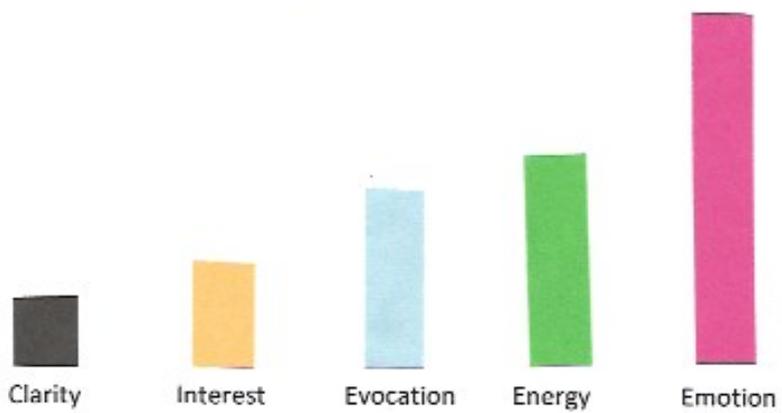
THE PERSUADING STYLE

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THE MOTIVATING STYLE

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The teaching style

Emphasise clarity - Plainly stated - clear words - simple expressions - specific language - descriptive phrases - short concrete words.

Needs not be dull, should be interesting, delightful, arresting and interesting. Other elements remain in the background or they will compete with the primary element of clarity.

The persuasive style

The better preacher strives to persuade people.

Some are aware of the teaching but are not persuaded.

Evocative language persuades - Interesting - emotional language
Energising - descriptive language
Vivid words - sensory imagery analogy - examples.

The motivating or moving style

Better preaching intends to move people.
Preaching seeks action and reaction.
Good preaching lights a fire.

Foundational truth + Persuasion validity & value + Urgent Commitment = Good Preaching

Don't sink into a stylistic rut!

Ask 2 questions:

- 1) What am I called to do with God's Word when I proclaim it to these people?
- 2) How can I purposefully apply principles of style to achieve that goal?

Lesson three

Selection a passage to preach from

- 1) **Select a real text**
 - a) A complete - statement - precept - narrative
 - b) Used with the sense intended by the author
 - c) Single words or fragment texts to be avoided
 - d) Any legitimate theme can be based on a real text

- 2) **Select the great doctrinal & ethical texts**
 - a) These have not been exhausted
 - b) You will not be thought naive or a beginner

- 3) **Avoid texts which are known to be interpolations**
 - a) Portions which have crept into later manuscripts - some will reject them.

- 4) **Avoid the sayings of uninspired men**
 - a) For example Job's friends, Satan, Pharaoh, Balaam, Pilate

- 5) **Do not choose a text because it is odd**
 - a) Humour is OK only when in good taste (e.g. Hosea 7:8 'Half Baked')

Preparing a sermon

What to preach about:

- 1) **What do the people need to hear** - pick this up from counselling or conversations.
Example - sexual sins, deception, finance, marriage etc.,
- 2) **What is in fashion in the Church** - from magazines and books.
Example - evangelism, prophecy, seeker friendly churches.
- 3) **What you are into personally** - books you read, downloads you listen too.
Example - love, gifts, missions.
- 4) **Systematic teaching**
Example - Sermon on the Mount, book studies.
- 5) **Thematic study.**
Example - prayer, faith, finance, healing.
- 6) **Changing direction in the church.**
Example - daily prayer, house groups.
- 7) **A word from the Lord**
Example - ideas in prayer, private study.
- 8) **Past sermons**
Example - a number that you re-present.
- 9) **Inspirational preaching**
Example - testimony, prophecy, vision.

Time Consideration

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 1) | Sermon & experience build over years | YEARS |
| 2) | Idea on a Sunday to preach next week | DAYS |
| 3) | Set a day aside and study | HOURS |
| 4) | A simple flow of ideas | MINUTES |

Getting down to it

1. Choose a passage

Passage example: Ephesians 2: 1-10

- 1) Read passage and make notes
- 2) Read a number of commentaries and make notes
- 3) Read book chapters and listen to tapes
- 4) Determine main thrust of the message
 - a) What am I instructing?
 - b) What am I persuading?
 - c) What am I motivating?

Study the passage 2: 1-3 This is you
Pick out significant words
2: 4-6 BUT God
2: 7-10 Why

Instructing a) What we were like b) What God has done c) Why God did it

Persuading a) What God has done b) How we should think as a result c) How we should live

Motivation a) Living in security b) Enjoy God's grace c) Live at peace with self

2. Choosing a topic

Healing

Exodus	15: 22-26	God declares his character
Exodus	23: 25,26	What to do while you wait
Deuteronomy	7: 15	Promises to keep you well
Psalms	30: 2	What to do when we get sick
Psalms	41: 3	Not always miracles - still God keeps us
Psalms	91: 5-7	Healing in pestilence and plague
Psalms	103: 3,4	God is a Saviour and Healer
Psalms	107: 17-20	How God heals
Proverbs	4: 20	a) Sends his word b) Read the word
Mark	16: 18	c) Laying on of hands
James	5 : 14,15	d) Anoint with oil
1 Corinthians	12: 9-10,28	e) Supernatural gifts

How long should you preach

- 1) How much content have you?
- 2) How interested are your congregation
- 3) What are the people used to?
- 4) Sense the Holy Spirit?

Lesson four

Rules of Interpretation

- 1) **Interpret in the light of the context.**
Good example: Colossians 2: 21

- 2) **Interpret a text in harmony with the teaching of the whole Bible.**
Bible does not contradict.
Example: Luke 14: 26 Scripture teaches love.

- 3) **The text must be interpreted in harmony with sound systematic doctrine.**
 - a) Doctrines are formed after consulting the whole Bible's teaching on a subject.
 - b) Doctrine has been formulated over 2000 years.
 - c) Does not guarantee infallibility but one should proceed with great caution.
Example - Grace.

- 4) **A text should be taken literally unless it is obviously figurative or unless a literal interpretation would lead to an absurdity or an impossibility.**
Example: Genesis 1:3 literal
 Genesis 3:24 figurative

- 5) **If possible consult the original language.**
 - a) Don't make independent translations of words or passages unless you have studied these languages.
 - b) Be careful when quoting what others say it means, it may be hearsay only.
 - c) There is no need to quote Greek and Hebrew in the pulpit hardly anybody in the congregation can appreciate it.
 - d) You study hard but do not display method. Everybody knows an artist uses a brush, but you can't see the brush marks on a finished painting.

Scores of passages are not fully understood in any English translation because it is impossible to translate.

For example Mark 1: 41 - To have the bowels yearning - moved with compassion.

6) **Interpret the text comparing several different translations.**

Three types of version: a). King James or N.A.S or N.I.V.
b). Youngs Literal or Interlinear Greek N.T.
c). Living or Amplified Bible or J.B. Phillips

For Example: Galatians 1 v 13 conversation = behaviour
(Study of words) use Youngs - Strongs - Crudens & Vines.

7) **Consult parallel passages**

Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture.

Most ethical principles are applied in different cases.

8) **Consult a good commentary**

Type1 Devotional commentaries do not help much with interpretation -
good for points of elaboration.

Type 2 Exegetical commentaries written by careful Biblical scholars.

Do not be a slave to a commentary.

Lesson five

How to give a dynamic presentation

- 1) **Remember that the first few moments of your presentation is important give it some thought.**

To establish maximum impact from your opening start with:

- a) A rhetorical question
- b) Elicit audience participation
- c) State a simple fact or make a quote
- d) Create a scenario
- e) Make a startling statement
- f) A joke will alienate you from a number in the congregation

All of these will give you a breather and calm you down before you get underway.

- 2) **Begin your presentation in the 'ready' position: Feet firmly planted, good eye contact, elbows in and hands in front of you - ready to gesture. Avoid awkward body movements or nervous gestures that can be distracting to the audience.**

- a) Do not put one or both hands in your pockets (never jangle money or coins in pocket).
- b) Do not put your arms behind your back
- c) Do not hide behind a lectern and hug it to death
- d) Do not lean against anything

- 3) **Vary voice patterns and volume**

- a) Use 'highs and lows' varying your tone
- b) Pace your presentation, speed it up and slow it down
- c) Don't hypnotise your audience, modulate your voice.

4) **Use 'power pauses' for impact**

- a) They give the audience time to think
- b) They give you time to collect your thoughts.
- c) They force the daydreamer to refocus attention towards you.
- d) They underscore an important point.

5) **Engage your audience in an enlarged conversation, with ongoing eye contact**

- a) Pretend you are having a conversation with individuals.
- b) Perform the same gestures you would in an everyday chat.
- c) Make eye contact with everybody in the room. Keep flowing around your audience.
- d) Best seating is a semi-circle so you can turn from side to side.

6) **Smile a little**

- a) Don't look serious, uptight or annoyed.
- b) People who smile win their audience over.
- c) If you are nervous throughout the congregation will not settle down.

7) **Keep your words simple**

- a) Speak in terms of action not flowery theory.
- b) Long words confuse people and cause resentment.
- c) Most people use short words, long words make you sound pretentious, phoney and condescending.
- d) Reading from a different translation helps to make a Scripture come alive.

8) **Never write an address, memorise or over rehearse.**

a) Credibility is shot when audiences realise you're giving a canned presentation.

b) Reading notes leaves the audience with the impression it is somebody else's sermon or you are not speaking from experience.

Five stages in getting to know your subject before you teach it:

- Listen. Sermons, DVDs, downloads, TV channels.
- Read. Bible, books, articles in magazines etc.
- Study. Research the subject as widely as you feel necessary.
- Memorise. Commit Scripture, stories and ideas to memory.
- Meditate. Run the ideas through your mind developing associated ideas

Lesson six

Sermon notes

Different types of notes

- 1) A pocket note book
- 2) A wide margin Bible
- 3) Notes in the Bible
- 4) No notes at all
- 5) A4 size paper

What not to do with sermon notes

- 1) Write them out in full
- 2) Write on both sides of the paper
- 3) Make too many insertions and crossings out.

Helpful hints regarding sermon notes

- 1) Use a coloured marker to highlight key words or phrases. (Use a colour code)
- 2) Print titles in capitals
- 3) Make your notes as brief as possible
- 4) Store them away safely for another day
- 5) Record when and where you preached it

Getting free of fear

When I begin to fear for my next speaking occasion, I remind myself that:

- 1) I am going to enjoy sharing myself with the audience.
- 2) No one sermon is crucial.
- 3) However it goes no crisis or catastrophe will ensue.
- 4) I am not going to set unfair standards for myself.
- 5) My listeners are forgiving and forgetful.
- 6) Failure is not a disgrace.
- 7) It is vain and prideful to think people are hanging on my every word.

- 8) I've lived through many failures, most of which I laugh through today.
- 9) I want to participate in preaching - sharing and learning as I preach.
- 10) Good sermons are sermons that do good.
- 11) I should put aside dreams of greatness and concentrate on what I am doing now.
- 12) Jesus was not a performer but a participant in humanity.

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