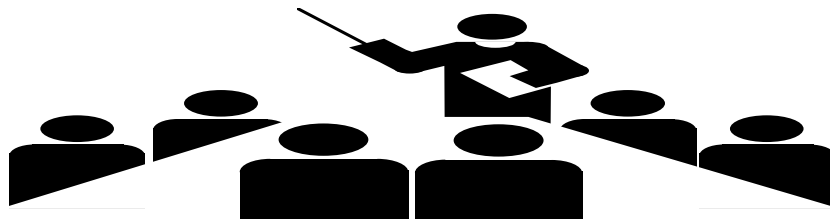


PREACHING SEMINAR



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The Nuts and Bolts of Sermon Construction

PREACHING WORKSHOP

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

LESSON #1: DISCERNING PREACHING THEMES AND SERMON IDEAS

I. Sermon Ideas

- A. Definition: “A sermon is the explanation, interpretation, and application of a single idea, all drawn from one passage or several passages of Scripture.
- B. The importance of a Single Idea [proposition, central idea, theme, thesis, or main thought]
- C. The Definition of an Idea- a distillation of life that abstracts out of the particulars of experience what they have in common and relates them to each other.
- D. The Formation of an Idea:
 - 1. Subject- “What am I talking about?”
 - 2. Compliment- “What am I saying about what I am talking about?”

II. Preaching Themes: Search and Find

- A. The primary Secret of Finding Themes: The Scriptures
 - 1. Saturation in the Scriptures
 - 2. Preaching from the Scriptures
- B. The Indispensable Characteristic: Decisiveness
- C. Developing a planning Guide
 - 1. It directs the selection of themes.
 - 2. It offers a balanced, spiritual diet.
- D. The Homiletical Garden
- E. The Preaching Bank Accounts:
 - 1. Sermon ideas
 - 2. Quotations and illustrations
 - 3. Topical File
 - 4. Sermons preached

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LESSON #2: THE EARLY STAGES OF SERMON CONSTRUCTION

I. Selecting the Passage

- A. The Preaching Calendar
- B. Chapter by Chapter: Thought Units
- C. Sermon Length
- D. Topical Exposition

II. Studying the Passage

- A. The Context
- B. The Tools: Lexicons, Concordances, Grammars, Word-Study Books, Bible Dictionaries, Commentaries, etc.

III. Discovering the Exegetical Idea

- A. Subject
- B. Compliment
- C. Literary Forms

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LESSON #3: FROM EXEGESIS TO HOMILETICS

I. Analyzing the Exegetical Idea

A. The Three Worlds That the Expositor Must Study

1. The Ancient World of the Text
2. The Modern World of the Times
3. The Particular World of the Audience

B. The Development of a Declarative Statement

1. Restatement- stating an idea “in other words” to clarify it or to impress it on the hearer.
2. Explanation- “What does this mean?”
 - a. The Passage- Does this concept, or parts of it, need explanation?
 - b. The People- Would my audience ask, “What does he mean by that?”
3. Proof- “Is it true?” or “Can I believe it?”
 - a. Proof through reasoning
 - b. Proof through argument
 - c. Proof through illustration
4. Application- “So What?” or “What difference will it make?”
 - a. Basic to perceptive application is accurate exegesis.
 - b. Basic to relevant application is proper analysis of the relationship between the modern man and the biblical man.

II. Formulating the Homiletical Idea

- A. The exegetical idea is the central idea formulated from a careful study of the passage.
- B. The homiletical idea is the central idea restated so that it relates to both the passage and the people; it accurately reflects the Bible and meaningfully relates to the audience.

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LESSON #4: THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

I. The Purpose of the Introduction

- A. To command attention
- B. To establish rapport with the audience
- C. To create interest in the subject
- D. To surface need
- E. To prepare the listeners to be guided

II. The Methods of Introduction

- A. The Textual Method
- B. The Contextual Method
- C. The Illustrative Method
- D. The Life-Situation Method
- E. The Statement of Purpose
- F. The Striking Statement or Quotation
- G. The Special Occasion Introduction

III. General Hints for Producing Introductions

- A. Take Time
- B. Be Creative
- C. Maintain Perspective

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LESSON #5: PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE IN SERMON BUILDING

I. The Power of Purpose

- A. Purpose states what one expects to happen in the hearer as a result of preaching the sermon.
- B. Measurable results- the purpose of the sermon in terms of observable behavior.

II. Sermon Shapes

- A. An Idea Explained
- B. A Proposition Proved
- C. A Principle Applied
- D. A Story Completed
- E. A Subject Completed

III. Sermon Development

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| A. | Deductive | Idea | Points | |
| B. | Inductive | Points | Idea | |
| C. | Inductive-Deductive | Point- | Idea- | Points |

IV. Steps in Body Building

- A. Formulate your purpose
- B. Phrase your topic
- C. Choose your points
- D. Determine the nomenclature of your points
- E. Select your supporting materials
- F. Arrange the whole into an outline
 - 1. Classify points consistently
 - 2. Maintain parallelism
 - 3. Build to a climax
 - 4. Give attention to the psychological sequence of points
 - 5. Convey an appropriate sense of sequence
 - 6. Have unity

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LESSON #6: THE PROPER USE OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS

I. The Meaning of Supporting Materials

- A. The filling of the sermon outline.
- B. What skin and flesh are to a skeleton
- C. What walls are to the frame of a house

II. The Purpose of Supporting Materials

- A. To explain the points
- B. To prove the points
- C. To apply the points
- D. To amplify the points

III. The Kinds of Supporting Materials

- A. **Restatement-** It states the same idea “in other words.”
 - 1. It gains clarity.
 - 2. It impresses the truth on the listener.
- B. **Definition-** It establishes limits and sets down what must be included and excluded by a term or statement.
- C. **Explanation-** It sets limits by amplifying on how ideas relate to one another or what an idea implies.
 - 1. Classification
 - 2. Comparison and contrast
 - 3. Examples
- D. **Factual Information-** It consists of observations, examples, statistics, and other data that may be verified apart from the speaker.
- E. **Quotation-** It’s an idea effectively stated by another.
 - 1. Because of impressiveness
 - 2. Because of authority
 - 3. Because of expertise
- F. **Narration-** It describes the individuals and events embraced in biblical accounts.
- E. **Illustration-** It is a means of restating, explaining, validating, or applying ideas by relating them to tangible experiences and throwing light on the subject.
 - 1. It makes clear what the speaker explain.
 - 2. It renders truth believable.
 - 3. It applies ideas to experience.
 - 4. It aids memory.
 - 5. It stirs emotion.
 - 6. It creates need.
 - 7. It holds attention.
 - 8. It establishes rapport

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LESSON #7: THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERMON

THE CONCLUSION MUST DRIVE HOME THE REAL THRUST OF THE MESSAGE

I. Ways to Conclude

- A. Summarize Sometimes
- B. Often Tell How
- C. Occasionally Show Anger
- D. Frequently Illustrate
- E. Always Identify with your Audience

II. Some Traps to Avoid

- A. Moralizing
- B. Stopping after you finish
- C. Stopping before you finish
- D. Introducing new material
- E. Generalizing
- F. Scolding
- G. Announcing the conclusion
- H. Repeating the same types of conclusions too often

III. Some Things to Remember

- A. End Grandly and Climatically
- B. Genuinely
- C. End Fulfillingly
- D. End Emotionally
- E. End Persuasively
- F. End Knowingly
- G. End Assuredly

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LESSON #8: THE WISE USE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

I. Some Commonalities of Picture Language

- A. Specificity
- B. Selective Adjectives
- C. Economy
- D. Energy
- E. Poetic Feel
- F. Beauty

II. The Dangers of Picture Preaching

- A. Exaggeration
- B. Misrepresentation
- C. Over-crediting
- D. Superficiality
- E. Sophistication

III. KEY QUESTIONS

1. Do My Illustrations Clarify?
2. Do My Illustrations Fall in the Right Places?
1. Do My Illustrations Persuade?
2. Do My Illustrations Reflect the Power of Smile and Metaphor?
3. Do My Illustrations Use Biography?
4. Do My Illustrations Include Historical Reference?
5. Do My Illustrations Employ Example?
6. Do My Illustrations Ever Reveal Identities?
7. Do My Illustrations Reflect the Subtle Power of the Parabolic?
8. Do My Illustrations Demonstrate a Sensible Use of Allegory?
9. Do My Illustrations Draw On the Contemporary World?
10. Do My Illustrations Sometimes Have the Flavor of the Arts?
11. Do Some of My Illustrations Reflect Appreciation of Nature?
12. Do My Illustrations Merely Entertain or Have Homiletical Purpose?
13. Do Children Understand My Stories?
14. Do My Illustrations Come in a Variety of Costumes?

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LESSON #9: THE EFFECTIVE INVITATION

I. LEIGHTON FORD- METHODS OF INVITATION

- A. The invitation to come forward at the close of the sermon
 - 1. Its advantages- it's clear-cut & decisive
 - 2. Its disadvantages- shyness & exhibitionism
 - 3. Tips for implementation
- B. The "After-service"
 - 1. Its advantages- gives time to think & helps the shy
 - 2. Its disadvantages- isn't as decisive & allows an out
 - 3. Tips for implementation
- C. The instructions in the counseling room or after-service
 - 1. The importance a warm but reverent attitude
 - 2. The importance of words of assurance and expectation
 - 3. The importance of explanations of steps to Christ
 - a. The three R's
 - b. The A, B, C, D's
 - c. Mark 1: 14-15
 - d. Come
 - 4. The importance of the prayer of commitment
 - 5. The importance of assurance Vs relief
 - 6. The importance of emphasis on growth needs
- D. Other Methods of Invitation
 - 1. The "Act of Witness"
 - 2. Cards in the pew
 - 3. Further information cards
 - 4. Specified counselors
 - 5. Special Decision Meetings
 - 6. "Say So" Meetings
 - 7. "Fireside Service"
- E. Guest Services
- F. The overtones of the invitation

II. Alan Streett- Effective Invitation

- A. The proclamation of the gospel must precede the invitation to respond to the gospel.
- B. The invitation to respond to the gospel must follow the proclamation of the gospel.
- C. The theological content of the gospel must include:
 - 1. Repentance
 - 2. Faith
- D. The two types of public invitation in the New Testament
 - 1. The call to Sinners to demonstrate publicly their repentance and faith and come to conversion
 - 2. The call to New Converts to openly witness to their new-found faith.

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LESSON #10: THE EFFECTIVE INVITATION, Part II

I. The Origin of the Public Invitation: the late 18th Century

II. The Reasons for Extending a Public Invitation

A. Delos Miles

1. The invitation fits our theology.
2. The invitation fits our psychology.
3. The invitation fits our pedagogy.
4. The invitation fits our ideology.

B. R. Alan Streett

1. Scriptural Reasons
2. Historical Reasons
3. Practical Reasons
4. Logical Reasons
5. Psychological Reasons
6. Consequential Reasons

III. How to Prepare and Give a Public Invitation (Streett)

A. Preparing an Effective Invitation

1. Prayer
 - a. Pray for yourself- a burden & passion for souls
 - b. Pray for your flock, especially those unsaved
 - c. Pray for the lost in the world
 - d. Pray for the Spirit's help in preparing and delivering God's message
2. Transition (from proclamation to invitation)
 - a. Use an appropriate question
 - b. Use a promise
3. Theological Instructions
 - a. Instruct them on how to be saved
 - b. 3 points- repent, believe, and follow Christ openly
 - c. Define, illustrate and scripturally support
4. The Proper Use of Persuasion- the Evangelist must be certain of four things:
 - a. That Christ is the only way to salvation
 - b. That he makes invitation personal
 - c. That he fills his appeal with appropriate invitational Scripture
 - d. That his invitation seeks to move the will of the hearer & bring it into submission to Christ
 - 1) Approach the will through the intellect: convince the mind that the action is reasonable.
 - 2) Approach the will through the emotions: convince the heart that the action is necessary.

5. Using a Motivational Theme

- a. Select a theme for each invitation
- b. Find Scripture passage that deal with the theme
- c. Intersperse Scriptures with fitting exhortations
- d. These first set of Scriptures & exhortations should be designed to reach the minds of the listeners
- e. Find Scriptures and provide fitting exhortations which touch the feelings of the listeners.
- f. Include an effective illustration to drive the truth into the heart of the listeners

6. The Call to Public Commitment

- a. Make the appeal simple.
- b. Make the appeal personal.
- c. Make the appeal positive.
- d. Make the appeal brief.
- e. Make the appeal without notes.

B. Delivering an Effective Invitation

15. Voice Quality

- a. Speak in a natural voice.
- b. End your sermon quietly.
- c. Have a serious and earnest manner.
- d. Pace your delivery.

16. Other Characteristics of Delivering an Effective Appeal

- a. Be careful not to distract your audience with unnecessary movements.
- b. Stick with your prepared material.
- c. Wait patiently for people to respond after the final call has been given.
- d. Silent prayer following the final appeal often spells the difference between success and failure.
- e. After praying, be ready to accept God's results.