

Powerful Biblical Preaching

**Nine lessons from the
preaching ministry of Jesus**

By Dr. Derek J. Morris

#1 Preach in the power of the Holy Spirit

- “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach...” Luke 4:18
- “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me...” Acts 1:8
- Examples?

#2 Bathe your sermon preparation and delivery in prayer

- Mark 1:35-39
- Acts 6:4
- Ephesians 6:19-20

#3 Preach the Word of God, instead of human opinions

- “The word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.” John 14:24
- “I have given them Your Word.” John 17:14
- Notice the example of the apostles – Acts 4:31

#4 Communicate God’s grace

- “They all bore witness to Him and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.” Luke 4:22
- Jesus was “full of grace and truth.” John 1:14
- 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 1:2, 2:8-9.

#5 Be aware of your audience

- Luke 4:22-23 – notice body language
- Luke 12:13-21 – listen to verbal feedback
- Acts 2:36-41 – allow opportunity for your audience to respond

#6 Use a simple, memorable statement

- John 6:35 "I am the Bread of Life"
- A simple sentence, rather than complex
- Stated in the positive, rather than negative

#7 Use repetition and restatement

- John 6:35 "I am the Bread of Life"
- John 6:48
- John 6:41
- John 6:51

#8 Find practical illustrations

- Examples from the preaching ministry of Jesus?
- Matthew 13:34
- Where can we find good illustrations?

Illustrations

listener

preacher

#9 Call for radical life change

- Matthew 7:24-29
- Acts 2:37-40
- The call should be simple and clear

Using media to increase your impact

- Distribute free CDs/DVDs to family & friends
- Archive sermons for free viewing and downloads from website
- Stream services live on the Internet
- Publish sermon series in book form

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Discovering a working methodology

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Finding your own working methodology

- Everyone has a methodology of some kind
- Find a methodology that makes sense to you
- Implement that methodology
- Personalize that methodology and make it your own

Step #1: Choose your preaching passage

- Personal—the text touched your life
- Pastoral—a need in the church
- Societal—a need in society
- Seasonal—a certain time of year

Step #2: Study your passage and gather notes

- **Context**
 - John 5:39
 - John 5:40
 - John 5:1-47
 - John 20:30-31
- **Key words**
 - Mark 9:2-4
 - Concordance, Lexicon, Bible Dictionary

Step #3: Discover the exegetical idea of the text

- **Subject:** What is the text talking about?
 - Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?
- **Complement:** What is the text saying about the subject?
- Subject + Complement = **Exegetical idea**

Practice: Deut 31:6a

- **Subject?**
 - What counsel Moses gave to the children of Israel
- **Complement?**
 - They should be strong and of good courage

Exegetical idea of Deut 31:6a

- **Subject:** What counsel Moses gave to the children of Israel?
- **Complement:** They should be strong and of good courage
- "Moses counseled the children of Israel to be strong and of good courage."

Practice: Deut 31:6

- **Subject?**
 - Why the children of Israel should be strong and of good courage
- **Complement?**
 - The LORD their God would be with them and would not forsake them

Practice: Psalm 117:1a

- **Subject?**
 - Who should praise the LORD
- **Complement?**
 - All you Gentiles/peoples (everyone)
- **Exegetical idea?**
 - "Everyone should praise the LORD!"

Practice: Psalm 117

- **Subject?**
 - Why everyone should praise the LORD
- **Complement?**
 - His merciful kindness is great
 - the truth of the LORD endures forever
- **Exegetical idea?**

Practice: Phil 4:4a

- **Subject?**
 - When Christians should rejoice in the Lord
- **Complement?**
 - Always
- **Exegetical idea?**

Practice: John 11:1-44

- **Subject?**
 - Who was raised from the dead?
 - What happens when you die?
 - What the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead confirms about Jesus
- **Complement?**
 - He is the Christ, the Resurrection and the Life

Practice: John 11:1-57

- **Subject?**
 - How those present responded to the revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, when Lazarus was raised from the dead
- **Complement?**
 - Some believed in Jesus while others determined to kill Him

Exegetical idea for John 11:1-57

- **Subject:** How those present responded to the revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Resurrection and the Life when Lazarus was raised from the dead
- **Complement:** Some believed in Jesus while others determined to kill Him
- **Exegetical idea?**

Step #4: Craft your preaching idea

- **Contemporary**
- **Concise**
- **Memorable**

Practice: Deut 31:6

- Exegetical idea: The children of Israel could be strong and of good courage because the Lord God was with them and would not forsake them.
- Preaching idea?
 - You can be strong and courageous because the Lord God is with you!

Practice: John 11:1-57

- Exegetical idea: When Jesus demonstrated that He was the Christ, the Resurrection and Life, by raising Lazarus from the dead, some believed while others wanted to kill Him.
- Preaching idea?
 - Accept Jesus as your Messiah and you will have life.

Step #5: Determine your purpose

- Explain
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Prove
 - 1 John 1:5
- Apply
 - John 13:34

Step #6: Select your sermon form

- An idea explained
 - Isaiah 58:13-14
 - 1 John 1:9
- Problem/solution
 - Anxiety/1 Peter 5:7
- Not this/but this
 - Romans 12:2

More sermon forms

- Thesis/Antithesis/Synthesis
 - Ephesians 2:8-9 - thesis
 - Ephesians 2:10 - antithesis
 - Those who are saved by grace and not by works will do good works to the glory of God (synthesis)
- Narrative (first-person or third-person)
 - Luke 15:11-32

Step #7: Gather supporting materials

- Facts
 - Internet/Media
- Quotations
 - Authority
 - Says something well
 - Sources? Bible, authors/speakers, news reports
- Illustrations

Step #8: Develop your introduction

- Capture attention
- Surface felt need
- Introduce the body of the sermon
 - Deductive
 - Inductive

Step #9: Develop your conclusion

- Summarize
- Apply
- Appeal
 - Related to preaching idea
 - Clear
 - Concise
 - Varied

Step #10: Birth the sermon manuscript

- Write an oral manuscript
- Don't be preoccupied with writing a perfect first draft
- Remember that this is not your final product
- Only 7% of communication is words

Step #11: Internalize the sermon

- Walk through the sermon like a tour guide (at least 5 times)
- Take note of lessons learned and edit your manuscript
- The goal is internalization, not memorization
- Think about how, not just what
- Do a last-minute walk through

Step #12: Listen while you preach

- Listen to God
 - New Bible texts
 - New insights
 - New applications
- Listen to your listeners
 - Verbal feedback
 - Non-verbal feedback

Summary

- Powerful Biblical preaching is the communication of a Biblical concept (exegetical idea), derived from a study of the text, applied by the Holy Spirit to the life of the preacher, and through him or her by the power of the Holy Spirit to the hearers (preaching idea).

Powerful Biblical Preaching

EFFECTIVE DELIVERY

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I. The importance of effective delivery

- Words are only 7%
- Intonation is 38%
- Body language is 55%
- For maximum impact, all 3 agree
- Where all 3 do not agree, people will believe body language and intonation over words

Implications for preaching

- Do not spend all of your preparation time working on words
- Allow time to think about how you will say those words
 - Verbally—oral interpretation
 - Non-verbally—facial expressions, gestures, visuals

II. Effective oral interpretation

- **A. Pitch** — the melody of your voice
- **B. Volume** — loudness vs softness
- **C. Rate of speech** — fast vs slow
- **D. Pause** — use of silence
- **KEY: Variety**

2 Samuel 18:31-33

- Just then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "There is good news, my lord the king! For the LORD has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you." And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe? And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do you harm, be as that young man is!"

2 Samuel 18:31-33 (continued)

- Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"

Additional practice

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 95:1-7

III. Effective Non-Verbal Communication

- A. Eye Contact
 - 1. Maintain eye contact long enough to establish connection
 - 2. Look at people in all parts of the audience
 - 3. Keep eye contact when sharing illustrations and direct appeals

- B. Facial Expressions
 - 1. Be congruent—facial expression and words should match
 - Excitement
 - Fear
 - Surprise
 - 2. Be natural
 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!
 - Lord, don't you care that we perish!

- **C. Gestures**
 - **1. Horizontal plane**
 - **Center = direct, personal**
 - **Periphery = indirect, general**
 - **2. Vertical plane**
 - **Upper third = high, lofty ideas**
 - **Middle third = everyday life**
 - **Lower third = death, sin, failure**

Practice

- **Satan wants to drag you down to destruction!**
- **Jesus can break the chains that bind you.**
- **You can have peace in the midst of the storms of life.**
- **Wherever you go, Jesus will be with you.**

Psalm 139:7-10

- **Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.**

- **D. Visual aids**
 - **Reinforce content**
 - Object
 - Video clip
 - **Clearly visible**
 - **Memorable**

- **"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." Acts 4:31**
- **No matter how much you learn and implement about effective delivery, always remember that powerful praying comes before powerful Biblical preaching.**

For more preaching resources:

www.powerfulbiblicalpreaching.com
