
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
Institute in the Foundations of Church Leadership
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WHAT IS PREACHING?
Advanced Lecture 7

INTRODUCTION:

There is a lot that is called “preaching” today and it isn’t. So what is preaching? What is a sermon? What is the preacher supposed to do when he stands to preach a sermon on Sunday or any other time?

I. WHAT PREACHING IS NOT

- A. It is not your chance to talk about politics.
- B. It is not telling people what you think about God.
- C. It is not talking about the traditional religions of your country.
- D. It is not telling people about the traditional or popular views of God. (In Mark 7:6-8 Jesus rebuked the religious leaders for preaching tradition not the commandments of God.)

II WHAT PREACHING IS SUPPOSED TO BE

- A. Preaching is a stewardship (a great privilege and a serious responsibility).
 - 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, in the NIV, uses the word “entrusted”.
 - Colossians 1:25, in the NIV, uses the word “commission”.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:17, in the NIV, reads “a trust committed to me”.
 - Each of these describe what stewardship means in this context.
 - 1. It is a stewardship of God’s mysteries (or God’s Word). (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
 - 2. It is a stewardship of God’s profitable Word. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 3. It is a stewardship of God’s inspired Word. (2 Peter 1:20-21)
 - 4. It is a stewardship that has been entrusted to the preacher. (1 Corinthians 9:17)
- B. Preaching is a guardianship. The Word of God is like a treasure that we are to guard with our lives. (1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Timothy 1:14)
- C. Preaching is a commitment to handle God’s Word accurately. (2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 1:9)
- D. Preaching is described in 1 Timothy 4:13. The pastor is to read the scripture he is going to preach from to the church. Then he explains what it means so there is understanding, and finally he helps those who are present see how to apply what the Bible says to their lives.
 - 1. By reading the scripture he is going to preach from to the church
 - a. Reading alone is powerful. If we can get people to read the Bible for the purpose of learning what God wants to do in their lives, it will transform them.
 - b. Practice reading the Bible out loud. Read it with meaning.
 - 2. By explaining what it means so there is understanding.
 - a. Illustrations: Acts 8:34-35; Luke 24:27

- b. Explaining and teaching are the same thing.
 - c. To explain it, you must study it, and that takes time.
 - d. You must do your best to learn what it means before you can explain what it means to others.
- 3. By helping them see how they can apply what the Bible says to their lives. (Matthew 28:20 says that, as a part of the great commission, we are to teach them to obey or apply the Word of God.)
 - a. Tell them how you are applying it.
 - b. Then tell them how they can apply it.
- E. An illustration of this kind of sermon, where the speaker read the Word of God, then explained it, and applied it, is described in Nehemiah 8:1-12.
 - 1. Ezra spent a long time reading God's law to them. (Nehemiah 8:3)
 - 2. He stood behind the pulpit, which shows the authority that is in the Word of God (Nehemiah 8:4, 5).
 - 3. The preaching exalted God, which is what all preaching should do. (Nehemiah 8:6)
 - 4. He explained it, and they understood. (Nehemiah 8:7)
 - Understanding is always the goal. If the people have not understood, then the preacher has not preached.
- D. Effective preaching brings people under the authority of God's word not the authority of the preacher.
 - We want people to respond to God and His Word, not to the preacher.
- E. Effective preaching persuades people to submit to God's Word.

CONCLUSION:

The challenge to us is found in Ezra 7:10. Ezra committed himself to studying the law of God, practicing it, and teaching it in Israel. We should have the same commitment when it comes to the Bible. Notice the order. He studied it first. Then he applied it in his own life before he told others to apply it to their lives.