

Preacher, Preparation, Presentation

A class on making and preaching sermons

Session 35
Practical
Considerations

Preaching
In
Pain

Imagine...

“Fire!”

7 people

27 years

rheumatism, gout,

inflamed kidneys

critics

depression



Every preacher must preach
through pain sometime.

Sources of Pain

Physical

Family Stress

The Twisted World

Friendly Fire

Apathy

Physical, Family, World Pain

1. Look for what God is teaching you.

“I am afraid that all the grace that I have got of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable...Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. It is the best book in the Minister’s library.” - Spurgeon

Paul's example

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Physical, Family, World Pain

1. Look for what God is teaching you.
2. Use all means for relief.
3. Share your pain, but appropriately.

ONLY
IN
People



PASTOR
RICK
AND KAY
WARREN

After a Son's Suicide

★ THE CHURCH LEADER HAS MINISTERED TO MILLIONS BUT FELT HELPLESS IN THE FACE OF HIS SON'S FATAL DEPRESSION. NOW HE AND HIS WIFE DESCRIBE THEIR STRUGGLE TO REGAIN HOPE

By CHAMP CLARK
Photographs by MICHAEL MURPHREE

On Easter Sunday this year, Pastor Rick Warren led 14 services for 50,000 worshippers. "I preached on the hope of the resurrection, the hope of heaven and the hope of God's helping us through our problems," says Warren, founder of Saddleback Church, an Evangelical megachurch in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, a spiritual guide that has sold 36 million copies. "I did not know that I was about to live the worst day of my life—that my son would take his own life for a lack of hope."

On April 5 the youngest of his and wife Kay's three children, Matthew, 27, shot himself at home with a gun purchased on the Internet. Matthew, who was first diagnosed with depression at age 7, had tried to kill himself before. Over the years he had seen countless doctors, tried various medications and was briefly institutionalized six times. But he also had a keen sense of humor and

loved working with kids. Lately, the Warrens say, things appeared to be looking up. He had taken a new job at Saddleback's resources center, and the night before he died he had spent a pleasant evening with his parents. After they got the news, "We were just in a fog," says Rick, 59, in a conversation at his church office with PEOPLE writer Champ Clark. "It was hard to get up and get dressed," says Kay, also 59. "None of it mattered." Rick took a leave from his pulpit, and the mourning process forced them both to wrestle with tough questions of faith. Now, after four months, he has returned to his church and is finding purpose in the family's loss. The Warrens have started a fund for mental illness but will wait a year before implementing it. "We're still grieving." In a PEOPLE exclusive, the couple spoke of their pain—and hope.

Why have you decided to speak now?

RICK: You don't have a child who struggles his entire life with mental illness without knowing you're supposed to use that for good. We've always known that at some point we would be called to use the platform we have to remove the stigma of mental illness. But we kept it quiet for many years to protect Matthew's dignity. It was his story to tell. **KAY:** One of the ways to break down that stigma is to talk about it. This is something we need to draw attention to: 38,000 Americans take their lives every year, more than die in car accidents.

What was Matthew like?

KAY: Creative. Hilariously funny—one of his greatest joys was to embarrass me, make me turn red. And so compassionate. I took him around the world. I had the idea that if he could see the lives of others [it would help him]. But it actually increased his depression to see poverty and child victims. His heart, already tender, just expanded. We put on his grave marker the words "Compassionate Warrior."

RICK: He was incredibly bright. But he lasted about two weeks in junior high. The principal said, "You're going to have to home-school him. The mental illness means he's not emotionally ready for this." You know how Van Gogh was incredibly gifted but tortured in mind? Matthew was incredibly gifted but his own pain gave him a heart for the hurting. But from grade school on, he was going. "Why can't I be normal?" That was so painful to us as parents.

What were the early signs of his depression?

KAY: He was an easy baby, but from a year he had a negative mood. If he spilled something, he couldn't handle it. He was extra sensitive in every way. He was seeing psychiatrists early on, but he was misdiagnosed.



"He fought so long and so hard," says Warren (with Matthew in 2012).

Friendly Fire

- Predictable

“The honeymoon is over.”

Pioneer-Homesteader
conflict



**KEEP
CALM
THE
HONEYMOON
IS OVER**

Remember your call.

Renew the vision with leaders.

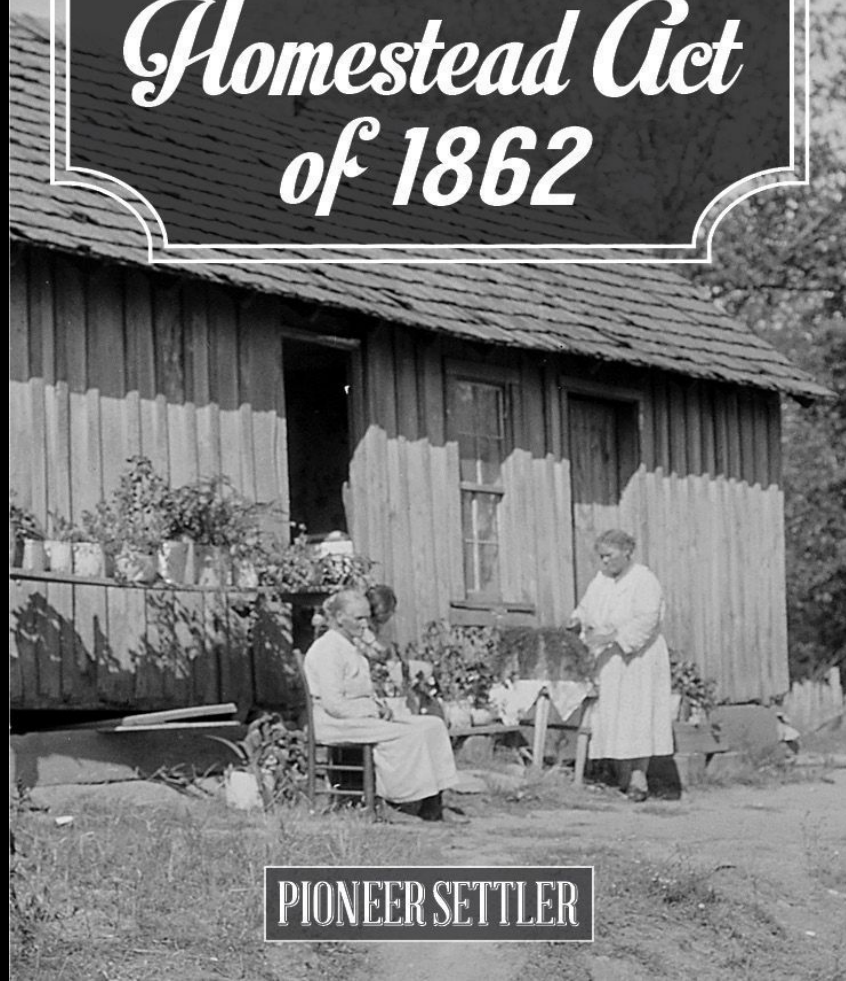
Remind yourself who gets the
glory.

Refreshment

People, places, things



WHAT IS THE
Homestead Act
of 1862



PIONEER SETTLER

I Corinthians 16:5-9

I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, **and there are many adversaries.**

Remember your call.

Renew the vision with leaders.

Remind yourself who gets the
glory.

Refreshment

People, places, things

Don't avoid the critics.

Sources of Pain

Physical

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Friendly Fire

Apathy



Soil Beside
the Road



Thorny
Soil



Rocky
Soil



Good
Soil

Still others, like the seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the **desire for other things** come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Mark 4:18, 19

Remember your call.

Assess the vision with leaders.

Remind yourself who gets the
glory.

Refreshment

People, places, things

Pray! Pray! Pray!

Watch for God's deliverance.