

SCRIPTURAL / SERMON WORKSHEETS

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SERMON PREPARATION

In *Preaching With Imagination*, Warren Wiersbe says we should ask seven questions in sermon preparation:

1. What does the text say?
2. How does the text say it?
3. What did the text mean to the original hearers?
4. *What does the text mean to the church today?
5. *What does the text mean to me?
6. *What does the text mean to the congregation?
7. How can I make the text meaningful to my hearers?

[*Better: How does the text apply to the church / me / congregation today?]

Wiersbe notes five essentials in developing creativity in sermon preparation and delivery:

1. Creativity is a way of life and not just a series of techniques applied to a specific challenge.
2. The creative lifestyle is balanced.
3. Creative people are readers.
4. Creative people build their vocabulary.
5. Creative people are not afraid to do new things.

“For our preaching to be biblical, the message must be based on the Word of God, presented by a messenger who lives under the authority of that Word, organized in a manner that instructs the mind and moves the heart and captures the will, and interpreted and applied in a way that is true (intrinsic) to the text.” (Warren Wiersbe, *Preaching With Imagination*, p. 307)

THE "WHAT" OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

The "what" of expository preaching relates to content.

CONTEMPORIZATION

Contemporization is the main task of the expository preacher. He takes what was written centuries ago and contemporizes it for present-day audiences. The Bible is relevant to human issues. The preacher, however, makes God's claims meaningful to his audience today.

The preacher faces two basic realities: the biblical text of the early century (then) and the context of the present century (now). [Two horizons]

| [Then] | | [Now] |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Was | | Is |
| Word | | World |
| Scripture | | Culture |
| Text | Contemporization | Audience |
| Meaning | | Significance |
| | | [Application] |
| "Thus says the Lord" | | "Thou art the man" |

Three Questions to Ask About the Content of Textual Exposition

1. Have I expounded the meaning of the text?
2. Have I expressed its central proposition in clear and contemporary terms?
3. Have I exposed the audience to God's truth and claims for understanding and obedience?

THE "HOW" OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

The "how" of expository preaching relates to process.

INTERPRETATION

There should be a reliable connection between the author's and the original audience's understanding of a given text and our interpretation.

There are some problems with what is basically moralistic preaching:

1. You do not really need Scripture to come up with such instruction.
2. Every text becomes an illustration of a higher, moral principle.
3. Your preaching lacks textual authority.
4. Such interpretation lacks objective controls.
5. The central proposition of your sermon (CPS) is not derived from the central proposition of the text (CPT).

Proper methods of interpretation must form the backbone of the sermon. The preacher is first an exegete of Scripture before he is an expositor of Scripture.

THE "WHY" OF EXPOSITORY PREACHING

The “why” of expository preaching relates to purpose. It primarily deals with intellectual, effective, and volitional components of Christian experience.

1. INFORM THE MIND

Our hearers must know and understand something – God’s truth. If they do not know (and understand) more of what God says and expects of them as a result of our preaching, we are not necessary.

2. INSTRUCT THE HEART

Not all human decisions are made rationally. Emotional factors also play a big part in serious decisions. The heart must be instructed while the mind is being informed. As a result of our preaching, our audience must both feel and will something - the necessity of personal obedience to God’s truth.

3. INFLUENCE BEHAVIOR

The practical test of good preaching is the fruit that it bears in life. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
Godliness must result in their lives.

FROM TEXT TO SERMON (THE RAMESH RICHARD MODEL)

There are seven steps from the text to sermon in the process of sculpting Scripture. The Seven-Step Scripture Sculpture Process

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|--|------------|
| 7. Preach the Sermon | “Flesh” |
| 6. Structure the Sermon | “Skeleton” |
| 5. The Central Proposition of the Sermon (CPS) | “Heart” |
| 4. The Purpose Bridge | “Brain” |
| 3. The Central Proposition of the Text (CPT) | “Heart” |
| 2. Structure the Text | “Skeleton” |
| 1. Study the Text | “Flesh” |

1. Study the Text: By studying the details of the text we acquire the "flesh" of the text.
2. Structure the Text: In structuring the text, we have the skeletal makeup of this text. The flesh and the skeleton form the textual raw materials for the sculpting process.
3. The Central Proposition of the Text (CPT): From the skeleton, we discern the central proposition of the text, the "heart" of its meaning.
4. The Purpose Bridge: From this heart of the text we develop a purpose for our audience. This sermonic purpose is the "brain" by which the sermon is finally designed and preached.
5. The Central Proposition of the Sermon (CPS): The brain will yield the direction and the form of the heart of the sermon.
6. Structure of the Sermon: The sermon will now form its own image and outline. The skeleton of the message will be evident.
7. Preach the Sermon: Fill in the details for the flesh as you finish sculpting a specialized, tailor-made sermon for your particular audience.

Note the parallel to steps 1&7, 2&6, 3&5. Step 4 is the bridge or brain that helps us make the transition from text to sermon.

Summary Description of Each of the Steps

Step 1: Studying the Text - The Flesh of the Passage

This is finding the meaning of the text. It involves the groundwork for serious study in accurately "seeing" and "seeking" what the Bible desires to communicate to all people.

Step 2: Structuring the Text - The Skeleton of the Passage

Understand how the biblical author put the text together. Emphasize how he said it.

Step 3: The Central Proposition of the Text (CPT) - The Heart of the Passage

Discover the dominant teaching of the text under two headings:

The Theme: What is the author talking about?

The Thrust: What is the author saying about what he is talking about?

Everything in the text is woven around the single major theme.

Step 4: The Purpose of the Sermon - The Brain of the Sermon

Make expository preaching relevant to the audience. The purpose is the brain of the sermon, the key link from text to sermon.

Step 5: The Central Proposition of the Sermon (CPS) - The Heart of the Sermon

Just as the text has a singular theme/thrust, your sermon must have a singular theme/thrust. The central proposition of your sermon will contain the twin “theme and thrust” emphasis. Here the biblical proposition (step 3) is channeled through the purpose (step 4) and contemporized to be understood and obeyed by the audience.

Step 6: Structuring the Sermon - The Skeleton of the Sermon Consider the basic ways of developing sermon unity, order, and progress.

Step 7: Preaching the Sermon - The Flesh of the Sermon

Increase the impact of your sermon through an attention grabbing introduction, illustrations, proper word usage, coherent conclusion, compelling invitation, and you physical delivery.

| THE SERMON EVENT | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| | PERCENT | TIME |
| I. Introduction | | |
| II. Body | | |
| 1. Exposition | | |
| 2. Illustration | | |
| 3. Application | | |
| III. Conclusion (Invitation) | | |
| | 100% | 30-40 minutes |

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTERPRETING THE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE

(A Summation)

I. STUDY THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

1. Consider the question of date, authorship, recipients, and purpose (general matters of introduction.)
2. Develop an outline of the entire book (study Bibles and commentaries will be helpful).
3. Examine the relationship of the passage under consideration to the book as a whole.

II. ESTABLISH THE BEST TEXTUAL BASE POSSIBLE:

1. Use the original language if you can.
2. Compare the various versions and translations.

III. INVESTIGATE THE TEXT LINGUISTICALLY (E.G. WORD BY WORD).

1. Make a lexical (definitional) study of crucial words.
2. Research the passage for key words, phrases, and ideas.
3. Track the verbs!

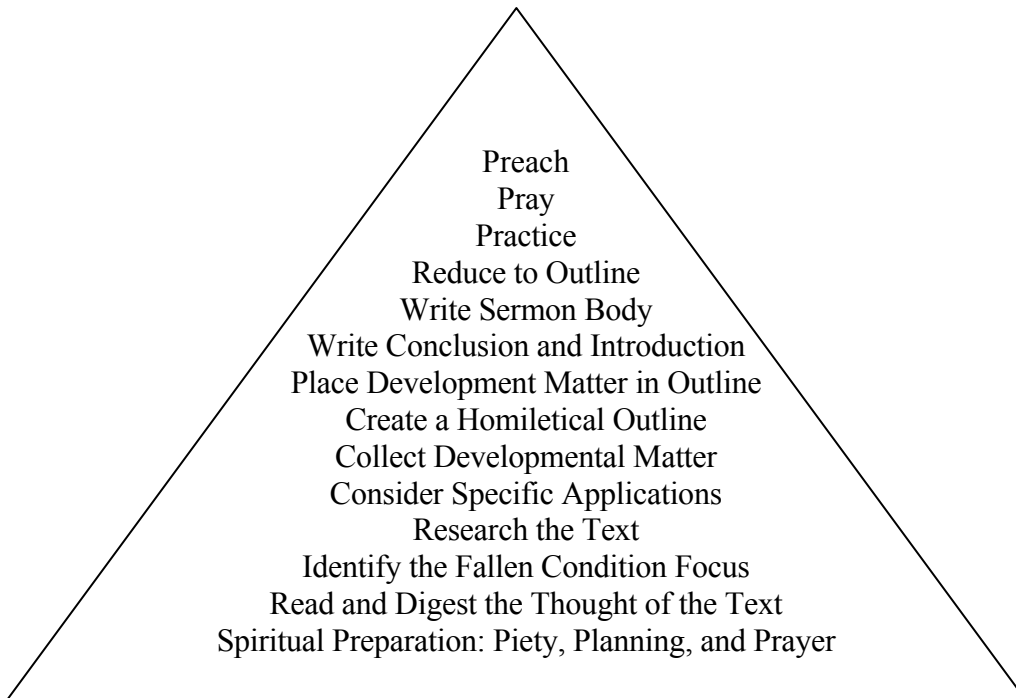
IV. EXAMINE THE FORM OR FORMS OF THE MATERIAL IN THE PASSAGE.

1. What is the literary type (history, poetry, prophetic, apocalyptic)?
2. Is there any indication of the life situation from which the material came?

V. ANALYZE THE STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE.

1. Determine if the material constitutes a literary unity.
2. Is there a logical sequence of ideas present?
3. Isolate the basic themes or emphases.
4. Outline the passage you are studying. Use the outline as the framework for your teaching.

SERMON PREPARATION PYRAMID



- From Bryan Chapell, *Christ Centered Preaching*

HOW TO STUDY AND PREACH/TEACH THE BIBLE

What does God want my people to know?



The Purpose
(Moving from the "Then" to the "Now")



What does God want my people to do?

"Bridge"

The Study
(Working in the past)

The Sermon (Message)
(Working in the present)

What was the main point then?

The Main Theme of the Text (MTT) "Heart"

The Main Theme of the Sermon (MTS) "Heart"

What is my main point today?

- Theme: What is the biblical author talking about?
- Complement: What is the biblical author saying about what he is talking about?

- Theme: What am I talking about?
- Complement: What am I saying about what I am talking about?

- Find the seams
- Analyze the argument
- Outline the text

Structure the Scriptures "Skeleton"

Structure the Message "Skeleton"

- Outline the Message
- Complete Sentences
- Present Tense Sentences
- Tie all Points to the Text

Study the Scriptures "Flesh"

Preach/Teach the Scriptures "Flesh"

Observation
Interpretation

Introduction
Body
1. Body
2. Illustration
3. Application
Conclusion
(Invitation)

ANALYZING THE TEXT

Verse 1 (1/4 page to full page)

Verse 2 (1/4 page to full page)

Verse 3 (1/4 page to full page)

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1. Pray.
 2. Track the verbs and parse them.
 3. Look for key words needing definition.
 4. Look for repetition of phrases and words.
 5. Look for seams in the text which will inform the number of points and the nature of the sermon outline.
 6. Note the near and far context.
 7. Search for helpful and supporting Scripture.
 8. Write out any and all observations and applications you see in the text.
 9. Examine your study aids and write out any helpful insights (note the source for future reference when appropriate).
 10. Look for theological truth and avenues the text logically supports.
 11. Merge your exegesis into the outline structure of your sermon.

TITLE OF THE SERMON

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1. Pray
 2. Make it interesting, an "attention grabber."
 3. Relate it, if possible, to the Central Proposition of the Text (CPT) and the Central Proposition of the Sermon (CPS).
 4. Create a title which can be fed by the main points of your sermon.
 5. Make it relevant.
 6. Put it in the form of an imperative (?)

INTRODUCTION

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1. Pray.
 2. Remember: this is the most important part of the sermon.
 3. Get the audience's attention, grab their interest, show them why they will want to hear what you have to say.
 4. Remember the value of a great illustration, pointed and specific information, a compelling question.
 5. Keep it between 3-5 minutes.
 6. Make a smooth and logical transition to the text/sermon outline.
 7. Consider scripting your introduction word for word.
 8. Do not waste valuable time with unnecessary/useless gab.

OUTLINING THE SERMON

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1. Pray.
 2. Let your exegesis drive and determine the outline.
 3. Have as many major points as the text naturally demands (locate the seams).
 4. Make sure major points and subpoints arise clearly and naturally out of the text. Be able to see your outline in the text.
 5. State your points in the present tense and complete sentences. Be clear, concise and true to the text.
 6. Make your points the application of the message. (Let them inform, instruct and inspire your people as to what they should do.)
 7. Make sure your major points connect with the sermon title and the CPT and CPS.
 8. Make sure your subpoints connect with the major point they support.
 9. Do not overload your people with more than they can intellectually digest!
(Teaching outlines are a great idea.)
 10. Cover and fill the skeleton of your outline with the meat and marrow of the exegesis.
 11. Write out your sermon merging all aspects of your preparation with a view of exalting our Lord and edifying your potential congregation here and now.
 12. Practice reading your text repeatedly and out loud. Remember: it is a sin to read God's Word poorly.

CONCLUSION

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1. Pray.
 2. Remember: this is the second most important part of the sermon.
 3. Build toward your conclusion and plan a safe, smooth and timely landing.
 4. Do not have multiple conclusions.
 5. Briefly summarize the CPS and your major points.
 6. Remember the value of a powerful and memorable story.
 7. Keep it between 3-5 minutes.
 8. Highlight points of application.
 9. Plan a smooth, relevant and clear transition into the invitation. **MAKE THE TURN TO THE GOSPEL!!!**

THE INVITATION

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1. Pray (in your preparation as you think about how to give the invitation).
 2. Be clear in what you want your people to do.
 3. Clearly, concisely and accurately share the gospel.
 4. With conviction and expectation, but not coercion or manipulation, invite and challenge your people to respond.
 5. Keep it 3-4 minutes maximum as to the explanation.
 6. Pray
 7. Transition smoothly and worshipfully into the actual invitation, allowing it to continue as you feel led of the Holy Spirit (one verse is too short and ten verses is usually [not always] too long).