

PREACHING THE BIBLE

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INTRODUCTION

Once there was a man who would give his
dog medicine every day
He would hold the dog tightly so it didn't run
away and pour it in its mouth
The dog tried to do everything to keep the man from doing this
One day the man spilled the medicine on the floor
The dog got away from him, ran over and licked up the medicine
The dog liked the medicine but he didn't like the way the man was giving it to
him

As a Christian we are commanded to **feed God's Word** to our people
It's good medicine for them
We want to give it to them in a way they will like it
If they don't want God's Word it may be because of the way we give it to them
In **2 Timothy 4:1-2** the Bible commands us to teach and apply God's Word to our
people
It's God's Word that we preach, not our thoughts and opinions
We're not to just telling stories or talking about politics
Your body needs food to grow
Your soul and spirit need food also
So God requires us to feed ourselves and our people

I. PREPARING THE MESSAGE

A. STUDY THE PASSAGE

We are going to talk about making a sermon from what we learned in our Bible
study
Remember, you keep praying just as you did when you were studying
Ask God for wisdom and insight about how to preach this to your people
Ask God to help you see how it applies to you so you can apply it to them
He will give insight for your sermon just like He did when you were studying

B. SPEND TIME IN PREPARATION

It **takes time** to prepare a good sermon
You can't just wait until a couple of days before you speak

The more you put into it the better it will be
It's the same as your wife making a meal, it takes time to prepare good food
Feeding our sheep is the most important thing we do as pastors
Honor God and His Word by giving God your very best effort

C. FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

When you prepare a sermon, **think of the people** who will be listening
The message is like shooting an arrow at a target
You need to know what your target is so you can hit it

When I come to India I speak to pastors
I also speak in churches and sometimes speak to children or youth groups
I have different messages for each group depending on their need
For me to preach evangelism to you would not be your need
But to talk to you about pastors – that's what you need to hear

I don't just wait until I get here to prepare
I do a lot of studying and preparing before I come
I would not be respecting your time if I did not prepare for these conferences

So make sure you are prepared when you talk to your people
When **Jesus** spoke, He spoke to the needs of the people listening
Peter and **Paul** did the same thing

D. HAVE ONE MAIN IDEA

Think of your sermon as an arrow
An arrow goes straight in one direction
If the arrow is crooked it will not go straight

You need to have one main idea in your message
Maybe you heard somebody preach and they started off talking about the
importance of giving money to the church
Then they start talking about prayer and next they talk about raising children
And then conclude with a message about salvation
What do you think when you hear a message like that?
Do you leave feeling fed and encouraged by the Word?
You wonder, "what was that man trying to say"?
You need to have one main idea in your message

When I talked yesterday about family, I talked about what God expects of
husbands and wives

I didn't talk about prophecy or prayer, just husbands and wives
Remember when I talked about redemption? that was all I talked about

This morning I talked about studying the Bible and now we're going to be talking about making sermons from what we studied
I only talked about one thing in each session

It's important to have one idea when you speak to your people
You need to know what you want to tell people

With marriage yesterday I wanted you to know that husbands should sacrificially love their wives and wives should have submissive trust in their husbands

When you left you should be able to remember those things

E. MAKE THE WHOLE MESSAGE FLOW AS ONE

I spoke about different ways to be a godly husband or wife but they all fit together

When you teach a passage you teach all the verses but then tie them together
The writer of the passage has one main idea that he wants to communicate
That's what you want to tell your people as well

You teach one verse then another, but tie them together with their main idea

The verses in 2 Peter are separate verses but all talk about faithful leaders
When you are done with your message the parts all follow one after another

When you do that people can better understand what you are saying
And they can remember and they can apply it later

You make each part attractive and each part understandable

You separate what you want to say first and what you want to say next

You don't just jump all over and talk about anything

When I talked about marriage I talked about husbands first, then I talked about wives

I showed how the duties of each fit together

When your wife serves you a meal she puts it on a plate so it looks attractive
She could mix it all together in one pile

It would have all the same nourishment that way

But it wouldn't be as attractive or appealing to eat

So when you serve God's Word to people make it attractive and appealing to them

Your sermon is to be straight like an arrow

II. PARTS OF THE MESSAGE

A. THE INTRODUCTION – tip of the arrow

There are some parts in our arrow that made it go to the target

An arrow has a point on the front
It is very sharp and is the first thing that hits the target

When we present a message the first words we say are very important
They need to get peoples attention and tell them what we are talking about

When I talk about studying the Bible I told you about getting a letter of
inheritance

It made you interested in what I was talking about
And you saw it is important to see what the Bible has for us

This session, I started talking about the medicine that was spilled
The medicine was good but the man was not giving it in a good way
We have God's Word and we must give it in a good way
So those things get your attention and have you listen
If you don't get your people's attention and show they why they must listen their
minds will wonder while you talk

An arrow needs to be straight and it needs a good sharp point to hit its mark
So does your sermon

B. ILLUSTRATIONS - feathers

There is something else that helps the arrow get to its target
That is the feathers on the end of it
What if the arrow didn't have feathers?

The feathers on an arrow are like the tail on a kite
They make the rest of the arrow go straight to the target

Telling stories and giving examples helps people understand what you are saying
When I use this arrow it helps you understand what I am talking about

Yesterday I told you the story about the wooden dog verses the real dog to help
you understand free will

I told you about the boy who lost his boat and had to buy it back to redeem it
I talked about Abraham and Joseph as husbands
Those things help you understand the truths that I am teaching
You remember them and remember what I tried to say

I use my tricks to do the same thing

I could come here and I could say all the same things without any stories or any
tricks

I would just tell you all the same truths with anything to explain it

Would you understand it as well?

Would you remember it?

Would you be interested in listening?

No! These things are important to help communicate God's truth

Jesus did that He told parables

When Nathan went to David about his sin he told him about a rich man that had many sheep but took the poor man's one sheep

Stories and illustration are important for people to understand and to remember
They make your message go straight to the target

I write down stories and examples to use

So when I need something I will look and see what will help

You can use stories from the Bible or stories from your own life

You can use examples from science or nature or history

You can use things in the news as examples

SUMMARY

Just make sure you have **one main idea** when you communicate your message
You introduce it so people are interested and will listen

Use **stories** and **illustrations** so they understand and remember
Make sure the whole message fits together

Sometimes we have our messages as four separate pieces

But a good message is when they are joined together

When you join them, God will take that and use that

He will bless what you say and put it all together

And then when the people hear it they will remember the whole thing

You will make it so that it makes sense to their mind and hearts

III. EVALUATING THE MESSAGE

There is one more thing that I want to talk about with messages

When your wife makes a meal she likes to hear if it was good & you liked it

She would like to know if there is anything she can change to make it better
the next time

When we feed our people we should ask the same things

You should ask your people afterwards "what was the main thing I was saying this
morning?"

If everyone tells you something different then you know you didn't communicate
clearly

Do you have a friend or leader in the church somebody you can ask?

Do you know the best person you can ask about your sermon?

Your wife!

She hears all your messages and knows what they are like

Ask her, "What did I say today that was good that communicated well?"

And you can ask her, “Was there anything that was confusing that I could have said differently”

Many times we don't do that because of our pride
But if we did and we listen we could become much better speakers
Don't let your pride stay in the way
Let your wife help you

My wife gives me many suggestions about my messages
I don't always like to hear them but that's my pride
When I learn from her I become a better pastor and speaker

Talk to her about your sermon as you are preparing it
She can give you good suggestions to help make it better then as well

TO THE WIVES...

Wives should always encourage their husbands
Every message tell him something to encourage him, something good you learned
You like him to say something good after a meal to encourage you
Not every meal is wonderful and not every sermon is wonderful
We still need to be encouraged anyway
If he asks you what he can do to make it better, speak the truth in love
Pray for your husband as he prepares his messages
Ask how he is doing working on his next sermon
Pray for him when he is preparing and when he is preaching

CONCLUSION

I hope these things help you to better read the Bible and prepare sermons
It's a great privilege and honor to share God's Word with people as a pastor
But it is also a very serious responsibility
God's Word is wonderful and necessary for our people to grow

We don't want to be like the man who tried to force medicine into his dog
We want to give them God's Word in a way they like and learn

We want to be good stewards and prepare well so our people learn and grow
God expects that of us as pastors more than anything else

Some people say God's Word isn't important for us today
They think what they have to say is more important than what God has to say
But studying and teaching God's Word is something God requires us to do
So remember what we talked about today and apply it to your preaching