

Preaching Practicum

Dr. Steve Schell | October, 2020 | Week 4 Class Notes

Four Types of Sermons

- The sermon gets its topic and points from a few verses.
- The sermon gets its topic and points from an extended passage.
- The sermon gets its topic from the next unit of thought and then the preacher identifies the points that will be needed to explain and apply that topic.
- The preacher picks a topic and looks for passages that talk about it.
- The preacher preaches along through a passage of Scripture turning every verse or statement into a separate short sermon.

Forming a Sermon

- Stick to only one topic in a sermon. Resist preaching 2-3 sermons at one time. This dilutes the effect of any one of them and makes it very difficult for your listeners to remember what you talked about.
- Identify the next logical unit of thought. Where does it start? Where does it end?
- Go through the three steps:
 - What does it say?
 - What does it mean?
 - What does it mean to me?
- The Bible provides its own stories. Watch for opportunities to describe what was taking place. Tell the story in a way that allows us to picture it in our minds as we listen. Use vivid language.
- As you study, watch for a truth that touches your heart. If it doesn't move you in the study it won't move them in the sermon.
- State that truth in one simple, short declarative sentence. In other words what are you going to talk about?
- Then list the questions you must ask of this statement to understand it. The answers to those questions become your main points.
- Always introduce your topic by showing us how it applies to our "felt needs" (practical or spiritual). "How will your sermon help me?"
- An old saying: "Tell them what you're going to tell them. Tell them. Tell them what you told them."
- Always apply the topic. Always minister for a decision. Always invite people to respond.
- Roy Hicks, Jr. "The sermon builds a platform for you to stand on and minister to the people."
- Never skip this final step. This is where the sermon moves from information to heart change.
- Schedule sufficient time during the week to prepare and study.

- Write out your introduction, transitional sentences, points, note illustrations, and conclusion.