

Evangelistic Preaching Part 2

4. WE PREACH FOR FAITH

⁴The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"^[a] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

We preach so unbelievers see and savour, behold and embrace the glory of Christ.⁴

5. (and so) WE PREACH FOR WORSHIP

The aim of scripture is the aim of preaching – It is worship and it seeks worship.

Your aim is to get people to worship God.

Romans 10:14-17

We preach for faith that glorifies God – "faith is seeing and savouring and being satisfied in all that God is for us in Jesus"⁵ And that Glorifies God!

6. WE PREACH WITH AN APPEAL

Generally speaking, our nation no longer knows the gospel. It bothers me that we are failing to get across the message of 'Christ and Him crucified' (1 Corinthians 2:2), but even when we do, it is without the pleading with the hearers to respond, to repent, to believe, to come to Jesus. Was it only He who is permitted to invite people to 'Come ... all you who labour and are heavy laden ... '(Matthew 11:28)? Was Peter making a mistake when he concluded his great sermon at Pentecost by urging his listeners to believe? He urged: 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call' (Acts 2:38-39). Luke adds, with many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation'" (Acts 2:40). In fact, the appeals of God throughout the Bible are many. None of them involve doing anything but simply responding to God's gracious invitation, which is not in a vacuum, but is based on all that Jesus has done for us.⁶

⁴ Piper, 81

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⁶ Roger Carswell, Evangelistic Preaching, (10ofthose publishing), 48-49.

People in Bible days, and today, are urged to:

- Come to Him (Isaiah 1:18 and Matthew 11:28-30)
- Look to Him (Numbers 21:4-9 and Isaiah 45:22)
- Believe on Him (John 3:16 and Acts 16:31)
- Receive Him (John 1:12)
- Repent (Acts 17:30)
- Call on Him (Romans 10:13)
- Choose Him (Joshua 24:15)
- Be saved by Him (Acts 2:40)
- Trust in Him (Psalm 115:9-11)

An appeal but in love, with invitation, not with pressure. So not an appeal to come forward, or come to the front, or even come to our course, but an appeal to ***come to Christ***.

7. WE PREACH BECAUSE WE MUST

What you are doing matters ***significantly and eternally***

Romans 1:14 - ¹⁴ I am ***obligated*** both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel

Our sermons are not an evangelistic *opportunity*, but an evangelistic *obligation*

8. WE PREACH TO PEOPLE

‘A preacher’ says Luther, ‘Should have the skill to teach the unlearned simply, roundly and plainly; for teaching is of more importance than exhorting... when I preach I regard neither doctors nor magistrates, of who I have above forty in the congregation. I have all my eyes on the servant maids and the children’⁷

Question, how much time do you spend on the text, on the writing, on the people, on prayer, on something else. DISCUSS.

How to ensure your preaching is affective

- Shape your preparation around people
- Use the passage you are preaching in your conversations
- Ask non-believers their opinions
 - “I’m preaching on the resurrection this week, and seeing that people don’t believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead despite the evidence in front of them. Why do you think people don’t believe?”

⁷ Martin Luther quoted by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers*, 128-129.

- “What is worse, being beaten up or being spat on?”
 - Invite them to the service
- Know your context - guilt, shame, fear, or a mix? ⁸
 - Guilt-Innocence
 - Shame-Honour
 - Fear-Power

Application sheet -

FCF – *Fallen Condition Focus*

FCF asks, what is the experience of the fall that is shared between the people in the text (or the original audience of the text) and the people I am speaking too.

Matthew 27:62-28:15

FCF: Because of the fall we live as though Jesus is still dead

Benefits

- Sermons are necessarily different in different contexts
- the fall, sin and suffering is preached naturally
- Applications flow easily
- One main point
- Appeals to unbelievers and believers

HOW DO WE DO IT?

“Some men read their sermon in the pulpit from beginning to end. I do not want to be too dogmatic, but surely that must be wrong, that must be bad. I know that some notable instances can be cited from past history where men have done this and it has been greatly blessed; but you do not make rules out of exceptions. Surely preaching involves, as we saw in an earlier lecture, a direct contact between the people and the preacher, and an interplay of personalities and minds and hearts. There is the element of 'give and take'. It is good therefore that the preacher be looking at the people; and you cannot be looking at the people and reading a manuscript at the same time. Such reading is bad for you and bad for the people. You lose their attention and your grip on them, and they lose grip on you and what you are saying. Surely, by definition, preaching is speech addressed to people in a direct and personal manner. It is not something theoretical or an academic lecture; it implies a living contact. Anything that makes you lose that is bad in and of itself.”⁹

Is it good or is it true?

- I want to show you that this is **good**, not that this is true
- Which is more important to your culture?

⁸ Jayson Georges, The 3D Gospel, 15-33.

⁹ Lloyd-Jones, 227

Working through the text

- Pauses, questions, reading together

Read the text through fresh eyes. What do you think is coming next?

Illustrations

- **The power of Storytelling**

- Appeal to imagination, Stories steal past sleeping Dragons. Think Nathan and David and the sheep story. That's you.

Best illustrations = real life

- None of us has experience this
- One of us has experienced this
- Bullseye - Shared experience between me and the people I'm speaking to
- Real life illustrations – full names, people will believe you in your illustrations.
- But illustrations are not the focus, what is illustrated should be.

Finish:

*"What a high privilege it is to be a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our Lord has given us the honour, the calling, the stewardship, and the commission of preaching a saving gospel to a world that is in desperate need of salvation--and all to the end that Jesus would be worshipped as Saviour in every tongue, from every tribe and people and nation."*¹⁰

¹⁰ R. Albert Mohler, Jr., *He is Not Silent* (Chicago, Moody Publishers, 2008), 143