



Preparation and Delivery of Sermons

Lesson 6

God's Plan for Good Preaching

Nehemiah 8:8 consists of three statements on preaching nestled right in the Bible's greatest chapter on revival. The classic verse in the Bible describes expository preaching. Here is how it's done. Here is what a man of God is to do **every time** he preaches or teaches. Here is how a message from God should be prepared and delivered. Doing this keeps what the preacher says from being his own message and makes it indeed a message from God. Delivering God's message involves three basic steps. *"So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."*

I. READ GOD'S WORD DISTINCTLY.

A. Read the Word of God.

1. This verse tells you why preachers begin by reading a passage from the Bible. Nehemiah 8:8 makes clear it is God's way.
2. It's beautiful; full of greatest true stories ever told. Great info.
3. Read it "distinctly;" not slurred, muffled; but with power.

B. Fill your sermons and lessons with the Word of God.

1. Not just at beginning but **permeating**. The best part.
2. *"Preach the word"* (2 Timothy 4:2). Not just about the Word, but the Word! Rich! Meaty! Full of truth! Not a collection of clichés and Skyscraper stories! Not hash and 1% milk. Give people meat.
3. Illustrations are good but they should illustrate the sermon; not constitute the core of the sermon.

II. GIVE THE SENSE OF GOD'S WORD.

A. The job of the man of God is to make sure the listeners get the sense of God's Word. That involves many things:

1. Explaining the context: the setting, the flow, how it fits.
2. Giving definitions and explanations from Hebrew and Greek.
3. Explaining customs and habits of the times.
4. Giving historical backgrounds and settings.
5. Explanations of who was speaking and what he had in mind.
6. Faithful interpretations or hermeneutics prevents many errors.

B. Always insist that your preacher preach the Word and faithfully give the sense.

1. It is called *“Rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).
2. Don’t put up with looseness: empty oratory, careless use of Scriptures or authoritative talk not anchored in the Word of God.

III. CAUSE THE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND GOD’S WORD.

A. This is personal application of the message from God.

1. Not too general, vague, mystical or abstract.
2. The Bible is not merely for *them*; it’s for **us**. Timeless messages!
3. What’s the take-home, the so-what? What’s the impact on me? How should it change me? What is God saying to me?
4. It is **truth applied** that counts! **James 1:25**.

B. This is where illustrations, humor and antic dotes can help.

1. Illustrations and stories can be like windows in a house. They shed light and help people to see. They add color, energy and application.
2. However, remember that the message from God is the cake; the illustrations are merely the icing. Salt and pepper are good, but too much will ruin the cake or eggs. Never let the tail wag the dog!
3. It’s the truth of God’s Word that liberates the soul! Let men see the His truth. Every sermon should bring them face to face with God.

Three ingredients that should characterize the preaching of every man of God! Church, Nehemiah 8:6-7 says when the people heard it they said *“Amen, Amen”* and *“stood in their place.”* When God’s Word is preached, stand in your place and show your support with your *Amens*.