



Preparation and Delivery of Sermons

Lesson 8 Delivering a Sermon

I. THOSE WHO WOULD SUCCEED AT DELIVERING WELL A PREPARED SERMON MUST ALSO PREPARE THEMSELVES.

A. Three basic elements of proper preparation to deliver a sermon.

1. A prepared message.
 - a) Sufficient research and homework to know well the meaning of the text and have the message in your heart.
 - b) A well-organized manuscript either on paper or in your heart. (Even with a manuscript it must be in your heart.)
2. A properly prepared heart or spirit.
3. Proper preparation of all mechanical elements.

B. How to prepare your own heart and spirit to present a message from God.

1. Pray:
 - a) Specifically.
 - (1) For your own self as you deliver the message.
 - (2) For your audience.
 - b) In advance.
 - c) Repeatedly.
 - d) Fervently.
2. Search your heart.
3. Repent and confess your sins.
4. Humble yourself.
5. Recognize your dependence on God in delivery and your impotence without His enabling.
6. Ask God to speak through you and for Him to use you to deliver faithfully and properly His message.

C. Take care of all mechanical elements necessary to the proper delivery of God's message.

1. Get together all props and equipment and be familiar with how to use properly ahead of time.
2. Make sure the classroom and all equipment is set up and ready to use.
3. Dress the part.
4. Be a good messenger. (Be clean, wear clean clothes, shine your shoes, fix your hair and let nothing distract.)

II. A MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS THAT YOU DO NOT HINDER THE SPIRIT OF GOD FROM USING YOU TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE.

A. You are delivering God's Word.

1. The power is in God's Word, not your charisma or polished style.
2. Your job as a teacher/preacher is to deliver His Word without distortion, not insert self in any way.
3. Efforts toward a clear and effective delivery should not be seen as improving God's Word. Instead they should always be seen as efforts to remove all distractions in order that the message of God might flow through unhindered in any way.

B. Some styles that can steal the show by putting the spotlight on you.

1. Verbosity.
2. Lack of clarity.
3. Circumlocution. (Saying many words but never saying what you intend to say.)
4. Dullness.
5. Roughness.
6. Sameness.

C. Pathologies. Delivery practices that will distract from God's message.

1. A delivery that is disorganized and unclear.
2. A message without natural, logical flow.
3. A message without clear points.
4. An introduction that is irrelevant.
5. An introduction that is too long.
6. A message that is a shotgun and not a bullet.
7. A message that seems to lead nowhere and without a theme.
8. A message without a conclusion.
9. Excessive repetition.
10. Rabbit chasing.
11. A messenger who is nervous, tense and tentative.
12. Lack of eye contact.
13. Lisps.
14. Poor use of language.
15. No gestures.
16. Poor gestures.
17. Repeat gestures.
18. Repeat words or phrases.
19. Quirks such as jingling keys, repeat looks at specific individuals or other repeat habits.

- 20. Predictable habits.
- 21. Uncouthness.
- 22. Monotone voice.
- 23. A constantly screaming voice.
- 24. Wed to notes.
- 25. Messages with no heart.
- 26. Anything that allows the spotlight to stay on the messenger and not on the message of God.

III. HOW TO LET GOD USE YOU TO DELIVER HIS MESSAGE IN AN UNHINDERED WAY.

A. Connect with your audience.

- 1. Master and internalize your material. (Get it off the paper.)
- 2. Review your message.
 - a) The more you review, the greater your familiarity.
 - b) The closer the review to delivery, the greater your familiarity.
 - c) The greater the mental energy given to review, the greater your familiarity.
- 3. Mentally visualize your message. (It must be re-born.)
- 4. Speak from your heart, not a set of dry notes.

B. Be simple.

- 1. Short words.
- 2. Few words.
- 3. Plain words.

C. Be clear.

- 1. Specific words.
- 2. Simple sentences.
 - a) As uncomplicated as possible.
 - b) Never more than 30 words.
 - c) A sentence of 11 words is easily understood by 86% of all Americans. Sentences of 17 words will communicate with 75% of American adults.
 - d) Eliminate run-on sentences.
- 3. Active voice. (Example: *Preach the Word* instead of *The Word should be preached*.)
- 4. Word combinations. Some words fit; others clash.

D. Be forceful.

- 1. Believe in your subject.
- 2. Be personal and direct.

3. Be relevant.
4. Respect your listeners. (Don't call them dummies or stupid)
5. Enjoy what you are doing.

E. Be interesting.

1. Be suspenseful.
2. Be climatic.
3. Be energetic.
4. Be concrete.
5. Be varied.
6. Be figurative.

F. Use good language.

1. Visual language.
2. Relational language.
 - a) Appropriate language.
 - b) Conversational language.
 - c) Personal language.
3. Imperative language.
4. Emphatic language.
 - a) Place the emphasis where it should be.
 - b) Avoid throwaway words.
 - c) Restate key words.
 - (1) By repetition.
 - (2) By rewording.

G. How to make words memorable.

1. Contrast.
2. Rhyme.
3. Echo. (Example: Right makes might.)
4. Alliteration.
5. Metaphor.

H. Use humor.

1. Not to get laughs but to drive home a point.
2. To break the tension of the moment.
3. To tare down barriers between the people and the messenger.
4. Be careful with joking.

5. Humor should be:
 - a) Realistic.
 - b) Relevant.
 - c) Retellable.
 - d) Within your ability.

I. Use persuasion.

1. God's Word.
2. Personal character.
3. Logical reasoning.
4. Emotional appeal.
5. Fresh imagination.

J. Use dramatic appeal.

1. Capture attention.
2. Begin strikingly.
3. Use variety.
4. Build to a climax.

K. Use your voice effectively.

1. Rate. (Don't be a monotone.)
2. Pace. (Vary the pace.)
3. Volume. (Control your volume.)
4. Stress/intensity. (Variety is the key.)
5. Pitch. (Approximately two octaves.)
6. Inflection. (Raises questions, suggests doubt, disgust, etc.)
7. Pauses. (Let silence be loud.)

L. Use body language.

1. Eye contact.
2. Gestures.
3. Facial expressions.
4. Posture.
5. Mobility.
6. Body movements should be:
 - a) Natural.
 - b) Well-timed.
 - c) Appropriate.
 - d) Varied.