

1. Introduction

- How do you feel about the topic?
 - Are you wanting to Preach? Why or why not?
 - What is the best sermon you can remember, what is the worst? What made it so?
 - What do you feel like you need to know to preach?

2. Who is to preach?

- “professional” preacher vs. “amateur”?
- Qualifications – what brought you here?

3. What is the purpose of a sermon?

- Exegetical, liturgical, theological, evangelical, topical (ethics, a specific event or saint),
- Hope, good news, impact on peoples’ lives, deepen relationship with God and each other, education, etc.

4. How do you go about it?

- Study the scripture – earlier is better.
 - Read, read, read!
 - Three worlds - understanding the context of the passage.
 - What is the scripture saying to you? What is the main point?
 - What did you find really interesting? Illustrations? Characters?
 - Resources – commentaries, study bibles, internet, your own experiences.
 - Story of DQ sermon – Experience is important!
- Reflect throughout the week
 - Where do you see the lesson being lived out in our world? In the news? In the church?
 - Are there interesting anecdotes or stories that can be used to illustrate the lesson.
- Know your audience
 - This is sometimes difficult, sometimes you must be generic.
 - Does your sermon need to reflect the local context? Local culture, the reason for gathering, etc.
 - Are there land mines to be avoided? Do they need to be addressed, and if so, by you?

5. Form

- Scripted, extemporaneous or impromptu.
- Our tradition – 10-15 minutes, oral, scripted. Eucharist, offices, Marriages, funerals, etc.
- Dialogue sermons with someone else, story-telling, other examples?

6. Content – My approach

- I usually try to have a “hook” – an interesting learning, illustration or story.
 - Can come anywhere, but usually at the top to set the theme.
- I try to give the listener a better understanding of the scripture.
 - Is there any background the listeners need to understand the learning I took from the text?
 - Do I need to talk about the context? What comes before and after?
 - Do I need to talk about the setting?
 - Give the background to help the listen understand why I came to my conclusions.
- Reveal the point (the lesson you want people to remember)
 - How is the lesson used in the scripture?
 - How do the characters react to the lesson?
 - What difference does the lesson make in the scripture? What is the result?
- What is the take home?
 - How does the scripture apply to life today?
 - What can the believer do with the lesson from scripture?
 - How does the scripture impact the life of the people listening to you?

7. Delivery

- Slow and steady, volume, distractions, eye-contact, body language, practice.

8. Improving

- Feedback – from congregation, from others – seek out specific feedback.
- Know that there is always room for improvement.

9. Further reading – AST Library is a great resource! A couple of books you may like to check out:

Wilson, Paul Scott - The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching

Long, Thomas G. - Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible