

Preaching with Creativity

(Habakkuk 2:2)

- Introduction:
1. I love preaching and want to do it well.
 2. Students will often ask me how long it takes to prepare a sermon – my answer is 38 years.
 3. We need to be putting a great deal of time into sermon preparation.
 4. If we're too busy to do justice to a sermon, then we're doing things wrong (Acts 6).
 5. I think one of the greatest sins of preaching is "boring those who listen to us" (Job 42:8).
 6. In this lesson, I will share a few thoughts that can help keep our preaching fresh and compelling to our listeners.

I. Approach a Text from a Different Angle

- A. Example of Eliam
 1. Father of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:3).
 2. Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15; 2 Samuel 23:34).
 3. Lessons from this perspective – the difficulty of forgiveness.
- B. Example of Joseph and His Brothers.
 1. What are lessons we learn from Joseph.
 2. But when viewed through the eyes of his brothers, we get new lessons to discuss – Guilt (Genesis 42:21-22; 44:16).

II. Use Illustrations

- A. Through the years, I've heard brethren disparage some preachers by saying, "He's not a preacher, he's a story-teller."
- B. May I suggest to you that "story-telling" does not stand in counter-distinction to proclaiming the gospel?
- C. Jesus taught in parables (Matthew 13:10, 34).
- D. Did you know that the "Sermon on the Mount" contains over 41 illustrations?
- E. Do you listen to preachers? If so, why do you listen to the preachers you do?
- F. If Jesus was the "Master Teacher," then we need to start preaching like him!
- G. Illustrations I have used.
 1. Clock.
 2. Phylacteries.
 3. Coins.

III. Appeal to the Past

- A. As we get older, we develop "nostalgia" for our past.
 1. "The good ole days" – is born out of our poor memories.
 2. But, recalling the past grabs our attention.
- B. Things you can do.

1. Chalk board sermon.
2. Sheet Sermons.
3. Filmstrips.
4. Flannel Board.

IV. Preach a Variety of Sermons in a Variety of Ways

- A. Don't be known for a "hobby" – maintain balance.
 1. Ills. of a preacher who could only talk about discipline.
 2. Planning sermons may help insure you're balanced between informative, corrective, and encouragement.
- B. Avoid homiletical snobbery.
 1. Be a gospel preacher, not a professional sermonizer.
 2. Make use of all forms of sermons.
 - a. Expository.
 - b. Textual.
 - c. Topical.
 - d. Narrative.
 - e. Even the dreaded "running commentary."
- C. Just make sure you're communicating God's word accurately.

- Conclusion:
1. Hopefully, these suggestions will be helpful.
 2. But let me remind you, do sell out God's word to "gimmickry" in an effort to be creative.
 3. It's the gospel that saves, and not externals.
 4. With every sermon, make sure you read distinctly from the law of God (the Bible is the source), give the sense (explain the passage), and help them to understand (make application) (Nehemiah 8:8).