

PREACHER'S WORKSHOP 1. WHAT IS PREACHING?

Introduction. All through history (as we shall see in the 4 sessions of Bible Overview) God communicates with mankind. Sometimes (rarely) directly, but mostly through a message proclaimed by preachers.

The N.T. has 60 different ways of describing preaching. Four main words:

1. **KERUSSO** "To declare as a herald on behalf of a king" The message does not belong to the messenger. He speaks with authority given to him

2. **EUANGELIZO** "To bring good news" Not separate from Kerusso because often the message proclaimed is good news. The angels at Bethlehem Luke 2:10. Don't think of preaching only for Christians and evangelism only for non-Christians.

3. **MARTUREO** "To bear witness to facts" It is giving a testimony in court. It is not telling people our feelings but the facts of God. In Luke 24:44-48 Jesus tells the disciples to go everywhere "heralding" repentance and forgiveness, and "witnessing" to the gospel facts as they do. Matt 28:20 says they were to "teach" everything that Jesus had said. Mark 16:15 says they were to preach the "gospel" to everyone.

4. **DIDASKO** "to spell out in practical terms what the message means in terms of living" In Acts 5:42 The Apostles continued "teaching and preaching"

We should check that we are doing all these things when we preach. 2Tim 4:1-5 Paul tells Timothy to "Preach the Word" meaning to proclaim God's message, teaching them to avoid errors, but he also tells him (v5) to "...do the work of an evangelist."

What this means for us as preachers.

i. Our message must be entirely from the Bible. Find out what it says, understand it carefully, don't bring your own opinions to it.

ii. We may speak with authority against sin but about God's forgiveness. People may need the bad news first before they are ready for the good news. We have divine authority for everything we say from the Bible. It is the Word of God, about the Son of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

iii. We must speak clearly about the facts of the bible. The historical events, the geography, the cultures, the details of the life and events of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherever we preach from in the bible we should ALWAYS be able to speak of Christ.

iv. We must speak directly to the consciences of our hearers.

What does the bible expect us to DO and HOW are we to do it. We would call this "Application". Our preaching must be so clear and plain that it can't be misunderstood and so direct that it can't be avoided.

A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO PREPARING TO PREACH

Have a structure. Here is a suggestion:

1. **Introduction.** Opening sentences to attract attention, like the front door of the house to lead people in. People need attracting to the theme. Short and sensible, and relevant. NOT JOKES!!
2. **The main theme.** Have some divisions to mark the distinct truths in the passage. (Perhaps about three). They make our preaching easier to follow. Make them short, perhaps in the form of questions. Each should be about the same length. (Don't spend all your time on the first point and have to cram the remainder into the last few minutes). Ask questions all the way through: What does it tell me of God? Of the Lord Jesus Christ? Any wrong to be avoided? Any good to be copied? Any promise to be enjoyed? Any failure to be confessed?
3. **Conclusion.** Like the point of an arrow. We should prepare our conclusion before we prepare our sermon structure. It's what we are aiming at all along. "Aim at nothing and you are sure to hit it!" Rather lay your message on your hearers. Send them home to "be doers of the word and not hearers only... (James 1:22)

A practical exercise.

Take a sheet of paper and divide it into three columns

Division	Illustration	Application
1.		
2.		
3.		
Conclusion		

Now let's try it out in small groups with John 2:1-11 "Water into wine."