

BETHEL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

COURSE: DCM201 - Basic Homiletics

INTRODUCTION:

Homiletics —Is the science and art governing the preparation and delivery of messages from the word of God.

Derived from the word HOMILY – means discourse.

The Call of God

- 1st - Isaiah received a revelation of the majesty, glory, and holiness of the Lord (vs 1-4).
- 2nd - He was made to realize his utter unfitness to stand in the presence of Jehovah. He discovered both his uncleanness and unworthiness and confessed his need for cleansing. (Vs. 5)
- 3rd - God provided the means of cleansing and assured him of its efficacy (6 – 7)
- 4th - There came a call from God for service whom shall I send and who will go for us (v. 8)
- 5th - There was a prompt, willing and glad response from Isaiah “Here am I, send me.”
- 6th - There came a commission from God which gave to Isaiah all he needed in the way of authority for his preaching (vs. 9-10)
- 7th - There was communion with God. (v.11)

The Nature of Homiletics

The paramount need in present day preaching is for a more intelligent preparation of the sermon and a better logical arrangement of the material, a

greater cultivation of those spiritual qualities that are fundamentals to all effective preaching.

What? We need W.D. (Well done) – Mt. 25:21 than man's glory.

Each believer irrespective of age and sex is described in the N.T. as a witness for Christ and a Priest unto God.

1. As a witness each believer is responsible to bear testimony to the world concerning the: (a) Person and (b) Work of Christ, His Saviors and Lord (Acts 1:8, Jn. 15:16, 26, 27, Mk. 5:19, Lk. 8:38-39) A witness is one who testifies to what he knows because of what he has personally seen, heard and experienced.
2. As a Priest, each believer is called upon to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (I Pet. 2:4-10), Rev. 1:5-6, Rev. 5:9-10.
 - (a) One's body is willingly presented to Him for both a righteous and useful life (Rom. 6:13, 12:1-2)
 - (b) Praise for all God has done, doing and will do – Heb. 13:15
 - (c) Prayer - Intercession/Petition - Ps. 141:2
 - (d) Worship - for what God is, as revealed in Christ. Jn. 4:23-24
 - (e) Service - glad-free - Phil. 2:17
 - (f) One's substance - (possessions), money, goods Phil. 4:18, II Cor. 8:9, Prov. 3:9-10.

The New Testament clearly indicates that each believer is both a witness for Christ and a priest unto God. Yet recalls that fact, that all believers are preachers and teachers.

The ability to preach and teach publicly is a definite gift that can only be imparted by God Himself. Eph. 4:7-16

FIVE (5) MINISTERIAL GIFTS

1. APOSTLE - A sent out one.
2. PROPHET - One who speaks God's mind to the Church
- one of the foundations of the church.
3. EVANGELIST - Has a message of salvation and deliverance
(going about)
4. PASTOR - A shepherd - feeding the flock
5. TEACHER - Has revelation of the word of God

SIXTEEN QUALIFICATIONS OF A MINISTER

1. Blameless in conduct- I Tim. 5:7, 6:14
2. Husband of one wife – but can be a Bishop without a wife as Paul – I Cor. 9:5
3. Vigilant – drinking no wine
4. Sober – of sound mind

5. Of good behaviour
6. Given to Hospitality – lover of strangers
7. Apt to teach – capable of teaching the word of God.
8. Not given to wine
9. No striker – plektes – not quarrelsome one not ready to strike back at those who displease him.
10. Not greedy of filthy lucre – not using wrong methods to raise money to increase his own income. 3, 8, Titus 1:7
11. Patient: Meek and gentle
12. Not a brawler – amachos – not contentious but quiet and peaceable.
13. Not covetous – not a lover of money, not desiring the office for personal gain.
14. Ruler of his own house – Not by hardness and tyranny but with honesty.
15. Not a novice
16. Of a good report from outsiders.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A PREACHER

SEVEN (7) ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

1. **He must be regenerated** – Jn. 1:12, 13, 3:3-16, Rom. 10:9-10
The unregenerated preacher is but a blind leader of the blind – Mt. 15:14,
Wells without water II Pet. 2:17
Important refs: II Cor. 4:13, Phil. 4:3
2. **He must love the Lord Jesus** – I Cor. 9:16-22, II Cor. 5:14-15
The love for Jesus is the believer's sustaining strength – Rom. 8:35-39
Jesus is our example, because of the love for the father He came, and for
the love for us He died. This joy was to do the will of the one whom He
loved, and He rested not until He could triumphantly exclaim "IT IS
FINISHED". (Jn. 19:30)
3. **He must love souls** – It is one thing to love to preach and another to love
those to whom he preaches to e.g., Jonah
All other professions – Lawyer, Doctor – Nurses, can work without love
for the people concerned. e.g., traders – customers. But a preacher can
never be a worker for Christ without a deep passion for the lost souls to
whom he preaches the gospel of God's grace. Mt. 20:34, 14:14, 15:32,
Mk. 1:41, 5:19, Lk. 7:13
4. **He must be a student of the Bible** – Motto: A preacher doesn't only
preach but studies. Some pious preachers: "The Holy Spirit will teach
you what to say" II Tim. 2:15. The entire Bible can be read in 54 hours.
By reading 3 chapters of the Old Testament each morning and I chapter
of the New Testament each evening, the whole Bible can be read in one
year. The preacher must also be able to quote portions of it from
memory. (Avoid incorrect quotations) e.g., Mk. 17:2, Rev. 25:6 etc.

5. **He must be a man of prayer** – Avoid vain faith and be prayerful. A prayerless ministry is both powerless and profitless – slogan “No prayer no power”. Theology must ever be accompanied by Kneology, Isa. 40:31. Jesus our example – Lk. 3:21, 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 9:29, 11:1, 22:32, 22:42, 23:34, 23:46 All preaching should be sanctified by prayer, both in its preparation, presentation and preservation Eph. 1:16-23, Col. 1:12

6. **He must be clean in his life** – Cleanliness is godliness. A preacher should have a good report of them that are without (i.e., the world) I Tim. 3:6-7 He must not only preach the word but live the word. e.g., i.e. The preacher at Christmas service – with the drunkard “if someone slaps you give up the other cheek – but not this drunkard.”

7. **He must be fit for the work** –
 - (A) **SPIRITUAL FIT**
 Each believer has his own gift, and as each exercises his gift humbly, prayerfully, and faithfully, the whole assembly is edified. Cor. 12:1-14:21
 - (a) This gift must be stirred up – developed II Tim. 1:6
 - (b) It is possible for a gift to be lost through misuse.
 - (c) It can be taken when not use Mt. 25:14-30
 The Law of atrophy “What we do not use, we lose”.
 (May God deliver us from such a tragedy).

 - (B) **PHYSICAL FIT**
 The ideal so far as a preacher is concerned is to have a healthy soul in a healthy body. III Jn. 2
 The body of the preacher (believers) is divinely ordained vehicle through which the spirit of God expresses Himself. It is therefore necessary to take proper care of it.
 - § He must mind what he puts in his body – Food.
 - § He must mind what he puts on – Clothing.
 - § He must mind what he does to his body – Exercise Lk. 2:52
 - § He must mind where he takes it – Location.

 - (C) **MENTALITY FIT**
 The preacher ought to be possessed of a “SOUND MINDS” II Tim. 1:17. Mental alertness is surely an essential thing for one whose privilege and responsibility is to proclaim God’s mind, Christ, the Holy Spirit, sin, salvation and the eternal weal or woe of humanity.
 Don’t be a fanatic – one who “majors on a minor”. i.e. The weak-minded preacher
 Put on the helmet of righteousness, belt – faith etc.

(D) EDUCATIONALITY FIT

The theory that God places no value on education finds no support in scripture. Jesus selected his disciples and taught them for 3 years.

Sent them out to preach – Mk. 3:14

Lookdown to them – Pharisees – “Ignorant and unlearned men.

But their knowledge were wonderful – Acts 4:13”

Must study as much as he lives – illustrate to better grammar etc.

He should be a wide – reader and increase his vocabulary. He must both seek and welcome criticism from others on his subject matter, expressions, pronunciations, enunciation, grammar, and gesticulations, for faithful are wounds of a friend

Prov. 27:6 i.e. The preacher and his secretary – “My people came again I’m sorry for turning she, she to he, he etc.

i.e. – Jesus, she is calling you.

FIVE (5) PARTS OF THE SERMON

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Text | - | Portion of scripture |
| 2. | Theme | - | Subject of your sermon |
| 3. | Introduction | - | Leading to |
| 4. | Discussion | - | The body of the message |
| 5. | Conclusion | - | Summarize |

TEXT: - Is any part of the Bible chosen as the authority foundation on which the sermon is built.

Advantages

- a. It confines the preacher to his subject.
- b. It gives unity to the sermon to the sermon presenting a complete thought which can be retained by the hearers.
- c. It prepares the hearer for the discussion.
- d. It promotes variety in preaching.

CHOOSING A TEXT

- a. It should express a complete thought (avoid odd text)
- b. Do not choose a text that promises more than you can deliver.
- c. Do not be afraid to choose familiar text. Choose one that is clearly understood. It should have personal appeal to the speaker. It should have personal appeal to the hearers.
- d. Keep the audience in mind. e.g., A gospel meeting, Christmas, funeral, wedding, children’s talk etc.

INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT

Is the process of making certain the mind of the writer?

EXEGESIS – Drawing out or discovery, what is there.

ANALYSIS – FIRST STEP

The text should be interpreted as follows:

1. Honestly (not to twist to suit us)
2. In the light of its context (precedes/succeeds)
3. In the light of its language
4. In the light of its Biblical History
5. In the light of its Manners and Customs.
6. In the light of its General Bible Truth.
7. In the light of its Typical Significance.
8. In the light of its Dispensational aspects. Dispensation – Basis of God's dealing with men – period of times.
9. Literally

THEME: - The most striking truth contained in the text. The theme is condensed. The discussion is the theme unfolded. The theme should say exactly what the preacher intends to discuss.

Advantage in stating the theme is for both the hearers and the speaker to be aware of the subject to be discussed – Is always stated in a proposition or statement.

METHODS OF STATING THE THEME

1. **Logical Method:** - Is a complete statement (thought) i.e., Eternal life is the gift of God. Jn. 3:5, i.e. "The new life is essential to the entrance of the kingdom of God."
2. **Rhetorical Method (phrase – proposition):**– "The light of God". Jh. 3:5 i.e. "The new birth" – gives freedom for speaking.

INTRODUCTION: - Is that part of the sermon which prepares the audience for the discussion of the text. It prepared the audience for an understanding of the theme.

Sources of Material for the Introduction:

1. From the text itself
2. From the book in which the text is found
3. By comparing the text with other texts that relate to the same theme.
4. By an arresting question or statement calculated to gain attention.
5. By a reference to Biblical manners and customs.
6. By an illustration that will draw attention to the text or theme.
7. The present occasion – A funeral, wedding, Christmas, New Year etc.
8. Secular history, science and the news contained much excellent material.
9. An apt quotation from poets.
Book – (the preacher and his preaching).

SOME SUGGESTION REGARDING IT

- a. It should lead directly to the discussion.
- b. It should not promise more than the sermon can supply.
- c. It should be simple and modest – Beware of an overuse of the capital ‘I.’
- d. It should be varied.
- e. It should not be too long.

THE DISCUSSION: - Is that part of the sermon which presents the truth contained in the text and theme. It is the most important part of the sermon.

THE NECESSITY FOR DIVISIONS

The Necessity: - Just as the structure of the sermon divides itself into 5 parts so the discussion should also possess logical divisions: past, present, and future. Time has 3 distinct divisions. A year has 4 divisions – spring, summer, autumn and winter. A day has 6 divisions – dawn, morning, noon, afternoon, evening, and night. Life itself has its various stages – babyhood, childhood, youth, manhood, middle age, and old age.

The Purpose: -

- a. They keep the speaker to his theme.
- b. They tend to make plain, to the audience the logical progress of the preacher’s own train of thought.
- c. They help the memory.

EXAMPLE OF THE DIVISION

Rom. 3:9-20

Vs. 9 – 12	-	The completeness of Human sin (all have sinned)
13 – 18	-	The character of Human sin (how all have sinned)
19 – 20	-	The consequences of Human sin (consequences – guilty)

Now, take the first:

9 – 10	-	There is none righteous – Men are unrighteous
11	-	There is none understandeth – Men are unreasonable
	-	There is none seeketh after God – Men are unresponsive
12	-	Unregenerated man is completely unprofitable –
Men		are unprofitable to God.

Second: 13 – 14	-	Men wicked words
13	-	Man’s speech is characterized by the vileness of the sepulcher and
14	-	Man’s speech is characterized by the venom of the serpent

The character of human sin (13 – 18)

Man's wicked words (13 – 14)

(a) Characterized by the vileness of the sepulcher (13)

(b) Characterized by the venom of the serpent (14)

15 – 18 - Man's wicked ways:

Man's way marked by murder (15)

Man's way marked by misery (16 – 17)

Man's way marked by mutiny (18)

- (no fear of God)

Third: 19 – Man's condition is said to be helpless.

20 – His case is said to be hopeless

Consequences of Human sin (19 – 20)

Man's condition is helpless – 19.

Man's case is hopeless – 20.

RULES GOVERNING THE FORMING OF THE DIVISION

- a. Each division should be distinct from the others.**
- b. The division should possess order, movement, and progress.**
- c. They should be cumulative – they should gather strength as they proceed. They should also possess.**
- d. unity of thought for each division is related to the theme.**
- e. They should fully expound the text and theme.**
- f. They must be natural and not forced out.**
- g. They should be orderly – negative precedes the positive, conviction before appealing, false before truth.**

THREE (3) METHODS OF DIVISION

- 1. Logical – A series of tense statements of facts or propositions, each of which forms a complete sentence and succinctly sums up what aspects of the theme is to be expounded in the division.**
The division should be indicated by Roman numerals I, II, III, IV, etc
The sub-divisions should be indicated by Arabic numerals 1, 2, 3, etc
The divisions of these sub-divisions – Arabic in brackets (1), (2), etc
The divisions of these – (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), etc.
- 2. Rhetorical Method – A series of phrases not expressing a complete sentence.**
- 3. Interrogative Method – A series of question which the text will answer**

CONCLUSION: - Called the final application

Suggestions:

- 1. It should be short.**

2. It should be varied – there are many ways in ending a sermon than by saying “Now in conclusion”.

A hymn, apt quotation, prose writer, a searching question, a solemn incident, or a summing up of the main points of the address.

3. It should be real – All forced and artificial emotion is an abomination.
 4. It should be personal – Each should be challenged (Preach, Reach, Each).
 5. It should be pointed – The preacher should be specific and should fearlessly yet courteously drive home the truth.
- The word sermon – Latin word – stab or thrust.
The purpose of preaching is to pierce the hearer with the word of God
Eph. 6:17.

- NOTE: - Do not apologize for your sermon.
6. It should conclude – the speaker’s finishing point should coincide with his stopping point.

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