

Haddon W. Robinson’s dedication in his book “Biblical Preaching”

To the men and women who keep a sacred appointment on Sunday morning. Bewildered by seductive voices, nursing wounds life has inflicted upon them, anxious about matters that do not matter. Yet they come to listen for a clear word from God that speaks to their condition...And to those who minister to them now and those who will do so in the future.

[Preaching is as much about you (the listener) as it is about the preacher]

1. Why Preaching?

- a. Question: Your friend or neighbour asks you, “What happens in your church on a Sunday morning.” Give you brief (3 sentences or less) answer.
- b. How would you communicate a positive view of preaching? [open communication to a large group about what God has to say to us today]
- c. What would you expect would be some of the negative views of preaching? [Boring, Judgemental, Ineffective]

So why preach? [Answer for yourself: Has God stopped speaking to His people?]

2. What is the purpose of the sermon? How does it help people’s faith?

- a. There are different types of sermons! [Each serves different purposes]

<p>Expository Preaching Purpose: Understand Biblical message in it’s context and apply it today</p>	<p>Topical Preaching Purpose: In-depth study of an area of practical living that has spiritual significance</p>
<p>Liturgical Preaching Purpose: To bring us out of our everyday concerns and to remind us of sacred seasons such as Easter and Christmas</p>	<p>Narrative Preaching Purpose: To tell the Bible story as is, and trust in the truthful telling of the story, that the Holy Spirit will guide the hearers to insight and understanding</p>

- b. Definition of Expository Sermon: *Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers.*
- c. Expository preaching is the result of Bible study and Theological Integration
 - i. Scripture→Theology→Sermon Preparation [discipline of the preacher]
 - ii. Communicated words→Theological Truth→Scriptural Foundation [discipline of the listener]

3. What, to the preacher, constitutes an effective sermon?

[Answer: when it accomplishes its purpose which, in the case of the expository sermon, is when the hearer is drawn closer to living out the truth revealed in the Scripture]

Preparing an Expository Sermon
(some parallels with preparing an inductive Bible Study)

1. Selecting the passage
 - a. “A conscientious ministry in the Scriptures depends on the thoughtful planning for the entire year. A wise expositor will save time by investing time in a preaching calendar.”
 - i. Ideally the passage is selected **Annually during the planning for the entire year**
 - ii. The bare minimum is probably around **10 days to 2 weeks ahead**
 - b. Exercise: What possible series would these passages fall under?
 - i. Mark 9:14-29
 - ii. Luke 17:11-19
2. Studying the passage
 - a. Researching Parallels and Cross-references: need a Good Study Bible
 - b. Getting at Original Meaning: need a Lexicon (if you know the Biblical languages) and/or several selected translations
 - c. Word Study of key words and how they are used in other parts of the Bible: need a Concordance
 - d. Commentary or Study guide→this is your last tool as a check of your findings and conclusions
 - e. Result: To know and be able to clearly write out
 - i. Subject: **the precise, full answer to the question, “What is this passage about?”**
 - ii. Complement: **answer to the question, “What does this passage say on the subject?”**
 - iii. Ideally the subject is clearly known and sermon development begins: **6 weeks ahead**
 - iv. Bare minimum: **5 days ahead to allow for sermon development**
3. Development of the sermon
 - a. Choose a Title: Communicates the main concept in an interesting way
 - b. Choose a Sub-title: Describes it’s purpose
 - c. Shape the sermon
 - d. Create an outline
 - e. Find illustrations and/or visuals
 - f. Start with writing a clear introduction and conclusion
 - g. Write out the central body of the sermon
4. Delivery of the Sermon
 - a. Work out the style and presentation **[how do you want to come across]**
 - b. Coordinate visual aids **[PowerPoint, drama]**
 - c. Communicate with worship team
 - d. Rehearse delivery
 - e. Consulting sermon evaluation form **[personal or group evaluation]**