

## EXPOSITORY PREACHING SEMINAR

John Stott, *I Believe in Preaching OR Between Two Worlds*

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preachers and Preaching*

Haddon W. Robinson, *Biblical Preaching*

A.P. Gibbs, *The Preacher and his Preaching*

### **NATURE of expository preaching**

To expound is to “set out” (Acts 7:31) eg. “gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading” (Neh 8:8).

J.Stott, “Our task is to open up what is closed, to make plain what is obscure, to unravel what is knotted, and to unfold what is tightly packed.”

#### ***It is based on a passage of Scripture***

Ezra used to “teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10); Timothy was to “preach the word” (2Tim 4:2).

H.W.Robinson: “Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical and literary study of a passage in its context...”

#### ***It treats the passage as a unit***

#### ***It applies the teaching of the passage***

The preacher lives in two worlds: the world of the Biblical text and the world of today.

J.Stott, “To preach is to open the inspired text with faithfulness and sensitivity so that God’s voice is heard and His people obey Him.”

#### ***It lends itself to systematic preaching***

### **IMPORTANCE of expository preaching**

Good for the preacher

Good for the listener eg. Ezra’s preaching had results (Neh 8-13)

### **PREREQUISITES for expository preaching**

#### ***Giftedness***

They called for Ezra (Neh 8:2,4,5,6,8). See Ezra 7:10.

#### ***Study***

Ezra 7:10, “*to seek* the law of the Lord”

2 Tim 2:15, “*Be diligent...rightly dividing* the word of truth”.

Eric Alexander, “The Scripture is not our servant so that we use a text to say something we want to say. Rather we are Scripture’s servants to allow Scripture to say through us what God has to say.”

#### ***Obedience***

Ezra 7:10, “Ezra had prepared his heart...*to do it...*”

2Tim 3:14: “You must *continue* in the things which you have learned and been assured of”

Jas 3:1, “Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgement”

#### ***Preaching***

Ezra 7:10, “Ezra had prepared his heart...*to teach* statutes and ordinances in Israel”. See Neh 8:3,8.

2Tim 4:2, “*Preach* the Word! Be ready in season and out of season...”

#### ***Prayer***

Eric Alexander: “So it is possible to be homiletically brilliant, verbally fluent, theologically profound, Biblically accurate and orthodox, and spiritually useless. That frightens me. I hope it frightens you too.”

### **PREPARATION for expository preaching**

“True preparation means brooding over your topics”. J.Stott suggests 1 hour for every 5 minutes preaching – varies with the individual and the subject and previous study!

#### ***Choose subject and text***

J.Stott, “The best sermons we ever preach to others are those we have first preached to ourselves.”

#### ***Study and meditate***

What does it say? What did it mean?

“What is not clear to me before I preach will certainly not be clear to anyone else when I’m finished!”

### ***Isolate the dominant thought***

The message centres on this main thought and involves explanation, validation, illustration, application.

### ***Arrange material to suit dominant thought***

- Structure – orderly arrangement – message should flow and appear as a unit
- Words – simple and vivid and honest
- Illustrations – should illustrate, be understandable, be convincing, be appropriate (not too prominent)
- Quotations – for impressiveness (someone says it well) or authority (person quoted has more authority)

### ***Prepare introduction***

H.Robinson, “There are three types of preacher: those to whom you cannot listen; those to whom you can listen; and those to whom you must listen. During the introduction the congregation usually decides the kind of speaker addressing them that morning.”

### ***Prepare conclusion***

May be a summary: “I tell them what I’m going to tell them. Next I tell them what I have to tell them. Thirdly, I tell them what I have told them.” But it is more than just a recapitulation, depending on the purpose of the message.

### ***Write down***

F.Bacon, “Writing maketh an exact man”; J.Stott, “The discipline of clear thinking demands writing”.

- “Extempore preaching lacks precision” – write out as aid to thinking (and determining length)
- “script-reading lacks immediacy” – reading or reciting can be monotonous, kills spontaneity, reduces eye contact

### ***Pray throughout***

## **PRESENTATION in expository preaching**

### ***Be dependent***

Ultimately it is not what we say or how we say it, but the Spirit of God who touches lives (1Cor 2:1-5).

- To be listened to, is the first thing; therefore, be interesting.
- To be understood, is the second thing: therefore be clear.
- To be useful, is the third thing: therefore be practical.
- To be obeyed, is the fourth thing: therefore speak as the oracles of God (1Pet 4:11).

### ***Be yourself***

- Self possession, which comes from knowledge, belief, preparation.
- Self-abandonment, which comes from earnestness and unconsciousness.

“Self-possession without self abandonment will make a man a statue; self-abandonment without self-possession will make him a fanatic.”

### ***Be clear***

Should always be direct, personal, vivid, varied, grammatical, and reverent.

### ***Be interesting***

Harrison, “In order of significance the ingredients making up a sermon are thought, arrangement, language, voice, and gesture. In priority of impressions however, the order reverses.”

### ***Be considerate***

Aim to finish in time allotted; don’t talk down to people; don’t overtax them; don’t insult or provoke

### ***Be willing***

Take the opportunities that come your way

“Speakers who say they are cool as a cucumber are usually as thick-skinned as a cucumber and about as inspiring.”

### ***Be receptive***

Be sensitive to how the audience is responding: “There is no blue pencil more severe than inattentiveness!”

Listen to feedback and constructive criticism, but it needs to be sifted based on source, content, motive etc.