Homiletics
An Introduction to Preaching

Student Edition
By Terry King
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Introduction

Welcome to our workbook for Homiletics, An Introduction for Preaching. If this is the first time using this set of notes, a couple introductory thoughts might be helpful.

This series of notes is primarily designed for use by church leaders around the world. The author has spent a number of years pastoring in the USA, then ministering in Africa and in Asia, in Bible school work and leadership seminars. In many parts of the world the church is growing much faster than leaders are being prepared. One of the hindrances to leadership training is the lack of teaching materials. Few pastors and teachers have the time needed or access to the resources to put together adequate notes for teaching purposes.

Several notes may be helpful for your study:

1. This Student Handbook is meant to be used for the course that I have taught with the same title. A teachers manual is available.

2. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as you are preparing and as you are studying. The Bible is His inspired word. We are teaching Christian leaders. The Spirit of God knows the needs of your students. Let Him be your guide at all times.

4. This course is meant to be a Bible based study. Keep your Bible close by as you study in and out of class. The Scriptures given in each section are not exhaustive. Add to them freely from your personal Bible study.

5. In a several places in the following outline notes I have included the author and page number of the texts that I have used. If the books are available further study will give your greater depth.

So much for introductions! Let's get on with the task of preparing for ministry. God bless you as you labor for Christ and his Kingdom!

Terry King
Hagerstown, Maryland, USA
February, 1998
Course: Homiletics I: Introduction to Preaching

Instructor: Terry King

Course Description: Each of Jesus’s disciples have been commissioned to proclaim the gospel. Homiletics is the art and science of preaching. In this introductory course the basic structure of the message will be explored. Three basic types of sermons will be explained. We assume that New Testament proclamation is the work of a messenger. We will devote specific time to exploring biblical principles and practices needed to prepare ourselves to be messengers of the Father. These principles will be put to use in a workshop environment. Since similar methods are used to structure teaching, counseling and other opportunities to minister the Word of God this course will be useful even if one does not preach from a pulpit regularly.

Objectives:
Our goals for this course are:
1. To challenge the student with the importance of preaching.

2. To produce preachers that are more than orators, we seek to be messengers of the most high God.

3. To follow a dual track in class times developing Experiential- practical and pragmatic-logistical tools.

4. To introduce the student to the basic structure of a message.

5. To give the student an opportunity to put to practice the lessons learned by preaching a short message in class.

Requirements:
1. Students must attend all class sessions. This is an intensive course, any absence must be approved by the instructor or a significant deduction will be made to your grade.

2. Students must complete all class assignments and be ready to hand them in when the class begins.

3. Students must be prepared and willing to participate in making assigned presentations in class. This will include practice sessions for different parts of the message and preaching a message in class.

Texts:
Required:
Holy Bible (Translation of your choice)

The Spiritual Dynamics of Proclaiming with Power by Curtis E. Leins (Unpublished manuscript, 1997).


Recommended:

Grading:
1. Assignments and Quiz: 25%
2. Preaching Assignment: 50%
   Each student will be required to deliver a 15 minute message during the final days of the course. A schedule will be drawn up immediately. The student should be developing this message step by step as the course progresses. (This message counts as a final exam.)
3. Final Project: 25%

Daily Assignments:
Daily assignments are required preparation for the class. Please prepare a one page reflection paper to be handed in before taking the next class. (Typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or equivalent)

Course Project:
Each student taking the course for academic credit is required to complete written course project.

Undergraduate Students: Read and prepare an annotated bibliography for The Spiritual Dynamics of Proclaiming with Power by Dr. Curtis Leins. The annotated bibliography shall include standard bibliographical information and a one paragraph analysis of each chapter. The analysis must include a one sentence summary of the chapter and a couple of sentences of personal application. (Typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or equivalent)

Graduate Students: In addition to the undergraduate requirement described above, prepare an annotated Bibliography for How to Preach Bible Messages by James Braga.
Schedule of classes:

Day One
Topics for class: Introduction to Course; The Preacher’s Position as Messenger and Prophet; Seven Parts of a Message.

Day Two
Preparation: Read Leins, chapter 5 “Preparing to Proclaim - Spiritual Revelation”
Topics for class: The Preacher’s Position as Ambassador; The Title, Text and Theme of a Message Described.

Day Three
Preparation: Read Towzer, chapter 5, “The Universal Presence”
Topics for class: Listening to the Father, First Partaker of the Fruits; The Introduction and Body of a Message Described.

Day Four
Preparation: Read Leins, chapter 7, “Anointing for Ministry”
Topics for class: Illustrations, the Conclusion and Invitation of a Message Described; Ministering with the Anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Day Five
Read Towzer, chapter 6, “The Speaking Saint”
Class preaching
Introduction to Homiletics

What picture do you see in your mind when you hear the word, “preaching?” Was this Jesus’ model?

My heart for this course: We must hear from God and speak with God.

God wants to speak to us. The Father has personal messages for each one of you, and messages He wants us to deliver to others!

Key verse: Mark 16:20

I. What is Homiletics?

A. Homiletics is the art and science of preaching

1. Science speaks of the discipline and organization

2. Art relates to God given gifts, training and acquired skill

B. Homiletics comes from a Greek word "Homilia" which means a mutual talk or conversation, or a set discourse.

C. Homiletics is "the systematic setting forth of the body of laws and of principles on which all art must rest." It is the "science which treats of the nature, classification, analysis, construction, and composition of a sermon."

D. A sermon is "a systematic oral address, adapted to the popular mind, based on Biblical truth, prepared and presented for the propose of persuading men to believe and act upon the truth presented."

E. Six rhetorical processes are at work in the formulation of a sermon

1. Narration
2. Interpretation
3. Illustration
4. Application
5. Argumentation
6. Exhortation

II. This class will help the student learn to PREPARE and PRESENT a well developed Biblical message.
The Preacher’s Position

I. A Messenger, Proclaiming the Kingdom

A. Jesus’s example

1. Luke 8:1
2. Matthew 4:23
3. Matthew 9:35

B. Jesus’s commission to the twelve disciples

1. Matthew 10:7-8
2. Matthew 24:14
3. Mark 3:14

C. Jesus’s commission to all disciples

1. Mark 16:15
2. Mark 16:20
3. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

   Greek for message is logos, log'-os; something said; from lego, leg'-o; a prim. verb; prop. to "lay" forth, i.e. (fig.) relate (in words, usually of systematic or set discourse)

4. 1 Corinthians 1:21

   Greek for preaching is kerugma, (kay'-roog-mah) a proclamation; from kerusso, (kay-roos'-so) to herald

5. Titus 1:3
6. 2 Timothy 4:2

D. Identify kingdom methods of communication

1. Preaching
2. Teaching
3. Working wonders (specifically healing and casting forth demons!)

II. A Prophetic Voice

A. Matthew 11:12

B. Luke 16:14-16

C. The father has a specific message for each occasion! (John 8:28-29; 12:49-50)

1. John 8:28-29
2. John 12:49-50

D. The Father’s message must be delivered with power.

1. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
2. 2 Corinthians 3:1 - 4:7

III. An Ambassador

A. The ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

1. We are reconcilers, the hand of the Father reaching out to the lost!
2. We are ambassadors, re-presenting the Father (Leins, page 67f) (The Half Assini chief)

B. Ambassadors speak with power and authority (These two words are often used interchangeably in English translations losing some of their meaning.)

1 Peter 4:10-11

C. The New Testament speaks of two kinds of authority (power)

1. Exousia (ex-oo-see'-ah) (Out of being)
   a) From exesti (in the sense of ability) I exist, denoting origin (the point whence motion or action proceeds)
   b) Meaning: delegated influence:--authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.
c) Matthew 7:29 (Mark 1:27)  
d) Matthew 10:1  

2. Dunamis (doo'-nam-is)  (Works of power)  
   a) From dunamai, (doo'-nam-ahee) to be able or possible:--be able  
   b) Meaning: miraculous power (usually by impl. a miracle itself), might,  
      (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, mighty (wonderful) work.  
   c) Luke 4:36  
   d) Luke 9:1 (also see I Corinthians 15:24 and Revelation 13:2)  

D. Sources of New Testament authority  
   1. Authority comes from relationship, under authority  
      Matthew 8:6-10  
   2. Authority comes from being sent  
      Matthew 28:18-19  
   3. Authority comes from serving  
      Matthew 20:25-26  
   4. Authority comes from know the ways of the Master  
      a) Psalms 1:1-3  
      b) Psalms 119:15  
   5. Authority comes from hearing the Master speak!  
      a. Our exousia (delegated) and dunamis exists when we have heard from the  
         Father and communicate His message! We are an extension of the Masters’s  
         own power and authority! (Leins, page 71)  
      b. Matthew 28:18-19  
      c. John 14:12  

E. Jesus’ example
1. Jesus’ actions
   a. John 5:19
   b. John 8:16
   c. John 10:37

2. Jesus’ words
   a. John 12:49-50
   b. John 8:28
   c. John 8:38
Hearing From God

Delivering a message presupposes that we have heard from God! We must develop habits and skills that help us hear what the Father has to say to his people.

I. The personal walk with Jesus must come first. Has he spoken to you, personally, lately?

   2 Timothy 2:6

II. Cultivating an atmosphere where we are able to listen

   A. Principle of sabbath

   B. Principle of solitude

   C. Principle of meditation

   D. Principle of personal worship (John 4:24, Ephesians 5:19)

   E. Principle of prayer and fasting

   F. Principle of simplicity
Proclaiming With Anointing

Have you ever worked with some one on a project and found greater pleasure in the finished product because you knew it was more than you could have done alone, AND you had released something in your partner in the process?

I. First Covenant Model
   A. Anointing of Priests
   B. Special oil

II. Jesus was Anointed, Ministry Followed.
   A. Hebrews 1:9
   B. Luke 4:18
   C. Acts 4:26-27
   D. Acts 10:38
   E. Jesus’s testimony
      1. I only do what I see my Father doing.
      2. I only say what I hear my Father saying.

III. The New Testament Disciples were Empowered for Ministry
   A. Acts 14:3 (note *enabling*)
   B. Acts 4:29 (note *enable*)

Enable comes from Greek didomi (did'-o-mee)

1. To give something to someone
   a. Used of one's own accord to give one something, to his advantage to bestow a gift
   b. To supply, to furnish necessary things

2. to give over to one's care, to intrust, to commit
   a. Something to be administered
b. To furnish, to endue

C. 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (note *competent*)

Greek for “*competent*” (KJV ability) is hikanoo (hik-an-o'-o)

1. to enable, i.e. qualify (Strong)
2. to make sufficient, to render fit, to equip one with adequate power to perform duties of one (Thayer)

IV. Anointing Comes From Working With God

A. The power of synergy

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

2. 1 Corinthians 3:9 (KJV) *labourers together*

Greek for “*labors together*” is sunergos (soon-er-gos')

1) From a presumed compound of *sun* (soon); a primary preposition denoting union; with or together, and the base of *ergon* (er'-gon); from *ergo* (to work); toil (as an effort or occupation); by implication, an act.

2) Definition: a companion in work, a fellow worker; a co-worker

3. Westerners struggle to understand the power of synergy

   a. The problem of independent individuality

   b. The problem of presumed equality

4. Synergy is the “third alternative,” better than compromise! (Stephen Covey)

5. Paul uses the illustration of a building.

B. Synergy is the power that is released with God and man working together, anointing!

1. Mark 16:20 *worked with them* (sunergeo, from sunergos)

2. 2 Corinthians 6:1 *As God's fellow workers* (sunergeo, from sunergos)

C. Does God want us to be just a pipeline, a channel...?
1. Old Testament empowerment was glorious, but faded: 2 Corinthians 3:13

2. New Covenant empowerment is transformational
   a. 2 Corinthians 3:16-18
   b. 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

3. We are called to be more than a pipeline, we are destined to be a body! What a perfect illustration of synergy!
   a. 1 Corinthians 12:27
   b. Ephesians 4:16

4. The heart of God is not to just use robots, He has angels already. The desire of the Father is to work together (synergize!) with His creation and to produce something greater in the process! (greater than he is free to do alone!)

D. The fruit of synergy
   1. 1 John 2:20
   2. 1 John 2:27 *his anointing teaches you... remain in him.*
   3. John 14:12-14

V. Requirements
   A. One must be walking in communion with Jesus: Romans 12:11
   B. One must be willing to wrestle, by the power of His grace, with the entanglements of the world.
      1. 1 Timothy 1:12
      2. Colossians 1:29 (note NASB and KJV)
   C. One must recognize the unique combinations of gifts have been invested in you!
      1. 1 Peter 4:10
      2. Jesus’s parable of the talents; not all were invested equally
   E. One must be under authority, sent!
1. 2 Timothy 1:9
2. 2 Timothy 1:11
3. Example apostolic team being sent from Antioch: Acts 13:1-3; 14:26; 15:40

F. Frees you to discover the power that is released in a team (synergy with other members of the body).

When I minister as a part of a team with my fathers, peers and disciples a whole new level of effectiveness is released!

VI. It is the Heart of God to Anoint His Body!

A. Psalms 133
B. Colossians 1:18-19
Road Map for Preaching

1. Title
2. Text
3. Theme
4. Introduction
5. Body
6. Conclusion
7. Invitation
Seven Parts of the Message

I. The Title

A. The title "is an expression of the specific feature to be presented in the sermon, stated in a manner which may be suitable for advertising the sermon." (Braga, page 93)

1. Title is the name of the message

2. A short description to stir interest

B. Why?

1. Capture the attention

2. Set the tone, mood, atmosphere

3. Gives a thought to remember

C. Making the title:

1. Make short and precise

2. Use something catchy and challenging

3. State it clearly, at the beginning

4. Appropriate to the text

5. In line with the dignity of the pulpit

II. The Text

A. The verse or verses from which we preach

B. From the Latin "textus" or "/textum" which means woven or spun. Our text then is that out of which the sermon is woven.

C. Advantages of having a text:

1. Awakens the interest of the congregation

2. Gives confidence that the preacher will give God's word
3. Gives the preacher authority and boldness

D. Choosing the text

1. Consider the theme
2. Consider the context
3. A verse to stimulate interest
4. Sort, often one verse, no more than a couple of verses
5. Consider a series

E. How to find proper texts

1. Listen to the Father!
2. Consider the spiritual needs of the people
3. Constant reading of the Bible

F. Caution in choosing the text

1. Avoid odd or out of place texts
2. Avoid verses that can be easily misinterpreted
3. Never take a text out of its context and change its meaning to fit your topic.
4. Use O.T. and N.T. texts
5. Consider your knowledge of the verse

G. When reading the text

1. Your Bible marked, ready and opened
2. Announce reference clearly, pause, announce again, give time for members to find verse
3. Read slowly, clearly and with emphasis, occasionally look up at congregation
4. Practice reading the text before preaching
5. When using an interpreter, give the text to him before preaching

H. Rules for interpreting the text

1. Is text literal or figurative?

2. Carefully determine the meaning of each word

3. Explore background of text

4. Compare Scripture with Scripture

III. The Theme

A. The theme is "a statement expressing in a complete sentence the one main or essential idea of the sermon." (Braga, page 120)

1. The main point or purpose of the message

2. It is the central thought of the sermon

   a. More than just a topic
   b. It is a fully developed summary of the message in one sentence
   c. A specific statement, narrowed to the precise concept

3. A full sentence with subject and a predicate:

4. A declarative sentence, a positive statement or probing question

5. State simply and clearly, beware of elegant or impressive language

6. The theme should be stated as concisely, making sure it is still a complete thought

B. Advantages to having a theme.

1. The foundation for the message

2. Gives the message direction and purpose

3. Gives the sermon unity

4. Keeps the message compact

C. Choosing the theme
1. Questions:
   a. What is the main point?
   b. What one thing do I want the congregation to remember?
   c. What is the one thing you want people to do or change?
   d. Put the answers into one sentence

2. Know where you are going!
   a. Take aim before beginning
   b. Develop a practical theme
   c. Consider a series
   d. Theme must be scriptural
   e. Consider the time, audience, place and occasion

3. When the text is chosen first develop the theme in these steps
   a. Study and exegete the text
      1) Ask the questions who, what, why, how, when, and where
      2) Paraphrase the passage
   b. Identify the one main truth that the text states
   c. State this truth in the form of one brief forceful sentence.
IV. The Introduction

A. The opening remarks, a bridge

B. Includes the title, text, and theme. It ties these elements to the body of the message.

C. Types
   1. An explanation of the text
   2. Explanation of the context
   3. Background of the text and context
   4. Use current events
   5. A personal observation

D. Qualities
   1. Clearly relate to the message
   2. Short
   3. Well developed and rehearsed
   4. Not be overly dramatic.
   5. Suitable to the audience

V. The Body

A. Contains the main sections of an orderly message
Sample

Title

Introduction:

Text
Theme
Illustrative Story

I. 1st Main Point of Development

A. 1st sub-point

1. Supporting Scripture
2. Illustration

B. 2nd sub-point

1. Illustration
2. Supporting Scripture

II. 2nd Main Point of Development

A. 1st sub-point

1. Supporting Scripture
2. Supporting Scripture

B. 2nd sub-point

1. Supporting Scripture
2. Illustration
B. Is developed in outline form

1. The outline is made of main points with subdivisions.

2. Notice indentations

3. The main points of the outline develop or elaborate the message of the theme.

4. Each of the main divisions should contain a basic idea that is distinct from the others.

5. The main divisions should build upon each other in a progression of thought.

6. Aim for three main divisions for a 40 minute message.

C. Subdivisions

1. Sub-divisions are supporting information

2. There must always be at least two sub-divisions

3. Include supporting Scripture, explanation of Scripture, illustrations

4. Use words or phrases

D. The value of outline method:

1. Promotes precision of thought

2. Promotes unity in the message

3. Helps the preacher and congregation remember the message

4. Helps to insure that the theme is fully developed

E. Development of the outline

1. The divisions explain and develop the theme of the message

2. Generally three main divisions

3. Preaching is like building

4. Sometimes helpful to start the main divisions with same letter
5. Helpful to announce the division number

6. Helpful to repeat the divisions

F. Three general types of development

1. Topical message: Text is a stepping stone to other verses

2. Textual message: Main divisions directly from the text

3. Expository message: Main divisions come from a passage

VI. Illustrations

A. Comes from the Latin word lux, meaning "light".

B. Purposes of illustrations

1. Make truth easier to understand

2. Stimulate deeper thinking

3. Illustrations hold attention

4. Help the listener to remember the truth

5. Prove that religion is relevant

6. Present strong and challenging truths

C. Sources of illustrations

1. The Bible

2. The congregation

3. Your personal life

4. Reading

F. Points to remember

1. Do not overpower the main thought

2. To much illustration makes the sermon only story telling, to little makes it formal and boring.
3. The meaning should be obvious

4. Beware - No exaggerations!

VII. The Conclusion

A. The conclusion is "the climax of the whole sermon in which the preacher's one constant aim reaches its goal in the form of a forceful impression." (Braga, page 229)

B. Greek orators said "the final struggle decides the outcome of the conflict"

C. Proclaim with the goal of seeking a response. Agreement alone is not enough!

D. Types

1. Summary

2. Application listener's life

3. An illustrative story

E. Points to remember

1. Keep it short!

2. Seek to challenge, without insulting

3. Stay with your theme.

4. Prepare throughly

5. Build to a climax

VIII. The Invitation

A. Time a response, opportunity to minister the message!

1. We preach with purpose!

2. Agreement is not enough

3. Time for clarity and conviction

4. Flow naturally from the conclusion

5. "Ripened fruit is easiest to pick!"
B. Key points to keep in mind:

1. This is not a test of your personal ministry

2. Give your appeal time to work in the hearts of listeners, but do not beg or pressure.

3. Be sensitive to unbelievers who need salvation

C. Closing music

1. Choose a closing chorus that will reinforce the message

2. Music has power, do not manipulate

D. Give clear directions for closing

E. There is power in the imparted Word! (Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23)
Bibliography


Homiletics Preaching Assignment

Name: ______________________ Start Time: ______

Date: _________________ Finish Time: ______

Section I Message Development

A. Title:

B. Text:

C. Theme:

D. Introduction:

E. Outline and development:

F. Conclusion:

G. Invitation:

Section II Delivery

1. Speech and mannerisms:

2. Illustrations?

3. Other comments

4. Final Grade: ________