

Speaking-Preaching Huddle

March 13, 2021

Part 1: The Art Of Preaching

“The Power Of Preaching” by Tony Evans, Chapter 1: “Foundations”

1. *“The call to preaching is a personal invitation by God that you cannot run from...If you are called by God to preach, He will give you an insatiable passion to preach.”* (pp.13-14)

These quotes might be scaring some of you off even before we begin our time together! Let’s talk about what a “call” from God actually means. What do you hear Tony saying?

2. *“Masters at preaching maximize their message in such a way that their words goad their listeners toward Christ, our Shepherd. Any other result indicates that the mode of communication was a speech, not a sermon...While topics may differ and points of emphasis will vary, the overarching content of a sermon must always have the kingdom of God and the Lord of...Christ in view.”* (p.16)

What does it mean to you as a Christian communicator to want to “goad your listener to Christ”?

3. *“A biblical expositor can be defined as a spiritually prepared person declaring the interpretation and application of biblical truths acquired through the study of a passage in its context that the Holy Spirit then used to confront the hearer and bring those who respond in conformity with God’s Word.”* (p.20)

One of the most important concepts for you to learn early on in this forum is what “expository preaching” is. Tony’s definition here I find to be a bit clunky. The following are definitions for expository preaching given by a variety of popular Christian preachers today. (Source: “What Is Expository Preaching?”, by Erik Raymond, thegospelcoalition.org). Read them, then share what you believe the central qualities of expository preach to be.

John MacArthur: The message finds its sole source in Scripture. The message is extracted from Scripture through careful exegesis. The message preparation correctly interprets Scripture in its normal sense and its context. The message clearly explains the original God-intended meaning of Scripture. The message applies the Scriptural meaning for today. (*Preaching*)

Bryan Chappell: The main idea of an expository sermon is that the topic, the divisions of that idea, main points, and the development of those divisions, all come from truths the text itself contains. No significant portions of the text are ignored. In other words, expositors willingly stay within the boundaries of the text and do not leave until they have surveyed its entirety with its hearers. (*Christ-Centered Preaching*)

John Stott: Exposition refers to the content of the sermon (biblical truth) rather than its style (a running commentary). To expound Scripture is to bring out of the text what is there and expose it to view. The expositor opens what appears to be closed, makes plain what is obscure, unravels what is knotted, and unfolds what is tightly packed. (*Between Two Worlds*)

Haddon Robinson: The communication of a biblical concept derived from and transmitted through a historical-grammatical and 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 hearers. (*Biblical Preaching*)

Albert Mohler: Expository preaching is that mode of Christian preaching that takes as its central purpose the presentation and application of the text of the Bible . . . all other issues and concerns are subordinated to the central task of presenting the biblical text. (*He Is Not Silent: Preaching in a Postmodern World*)

So what are the key elements of expository preaching?

What other types of preaching might there be?

Tim Keller in his masterful *“Preaching: Communicating Faith In An Age Of Skepticism”*, quotes Hugh Oliphant Old who names 5 basic types of sermons (in his 7-volume series on the history of preaching!)

Expository / Evangelistic / Catechetical / Festal / Prophetic.

Expository he defines as “the systematic explanation of Scripture done on a week by week basis. Festal helps listeners to celebrate observances in the church year. Evangelistic: to convey truths to nonbelievers; Catechetical: To instruct believers in a particular aspect of church’s confession. Prophetic: Speaks to a particular historical or cultural moment.”

Basically, if you’re not doing expository preaching, you’re doing _____ preaching.

Evans makes the case in this chapter (and Keller agrees) that most of our preaching should be expository. Can you think of some reasons why this would be so? See if they match with the reasons Evans give (he gives 2 reasons on p.22, then one reason per page on pp.26-29).

4. You can do share proper “exegesis” in your sermon, offer a running verse-by-verse commentary, even explain the text in its proper historical context, and still not be preaching an expository sermon (pp.31-32). When does true expository preaching happen, according to Tony? Skim pp.32-36 for your answers.

Part 2: The Art Of Public Speaking

“Talk Like Ted” by Carmine Gallo, Chapter 1: “Unleash The Master Within”

“Passion is the thing that will help you create the highest expression of your talent.” – Larry Smith

“Nothing great has ever been achieved without enthusiasm.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

1. You read the chapter. Let's come up with 3-5 reasons that support the above quotes.
2. The author, Carmine Gallo, used to ask in his presentations, "What are you passionate about?" But inspired by Steve Jobs, he now asks, "What makes your heart sing?" Why is this a better question?
3. Alright so...
4. What are some things I can do to increase the level of passion I convey in my communication? Share some tips from the chapter.

Part 3: Lab Work - Notes

For Next Time...

1. Prepare 3-4 “30-Second Stories” built around the following themes:

- An evangelism story. “I follow Jesus because...” (I encourage you to share this with the church on Palm Sunday.)
- A conversion story. “I love Jesus because he saved me...”
- A truth story. “I follow Jesus because he’s taught me...”
- An experience story. “I believe in Jesus because he showed himself to me by...”

2. *Reading Work:*

- Read Chapter 2: “Organization” in “The Power Of Preaching.
- Read Chapter 2: “Master The Art Of Story-Telling” in “Talk Like TED”.
- Skim through the 3-page handout, “How To Prepare And Preach An Expository Sermon” by Tim Keller. We won’t do anything with this right away, but just familiarize yourself with its contents. It’s more technical, so don’t worry if it doesn’t set your feet dancing.

Our next meeting: **April 10th, from 9:00 to 10:30am.**