

Preaching And Teaching III

Mistakes in Preaching



1

Preaching and Teaching I

- + What is preaching?
 - † Grounding, influential, discipleship
- + What is NOT preaching?
 - † Display of Information, expression of self
- + What is the goal of preaching?
 - † Affecting people, to lead them to: repentance, knowledge of God, spiritual life
- + What is the importance of preaching?
 - † Persuasion: Biblical, Logical
- + When to preach?
 - † All the time: *in season and out of season*

2

Types of Preaching II

- + What are the two types of sermons?
 - † General, special
- + What are some special types of sermons?
 - † Deep topics, sensitive topics
- + What are the three styles of sermons?
 - † By verse, By Topic, By Series
- + What's the importance of knowing the audience?
 - † Must cater to the audience in content and style
- + What must a preacher do to enhance the gift of preaching?
 - † Continue to learn

3

Unstructured

- + Unorganized, unstructured
 - † Listeners get lost, confused
 - † No goal
 - † Too many tangents



4

Sermon Structure

- + Traditional: introduction, body, and conclusion.
- + Short introduction that is fit for the subject.
 - † Related or marginally related; seemingly unrelated.
 - † Story, question, thought, background, ...
- + Should be short – not 30 mins!
- + Can skip introduction and go straight to the body:
 - † Pope Shenouda
- + Practical structure: body, practical application, exercise – something that people can actually do;
 - † “giving”, exercise: find a poor person, get him a meal.

5

Sermon Structure

- Title
- ✓ Prayer/Meditation
- 📖 Objective/Goal
- 📖 Verse
- 📖 References
- 📖 Introduction
- 📖 Outline 3 Main points
- ✓ Conclusion

6

Without Persuasion

- + Teaching a concept is incomplete
- + Must include persuasion
 - † Verses, Sayings of Fathers, Logic
- + Smoking:
 - † Harmful for health, Harmful for wealth
 - † Harmful for will: how?
 - † *"All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* (1Cor 6:12)
 - † You are under its power, therefore, you are not free:
 - † *"If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."* (Jn 8:36)
 - † Then you are not partaking of the freedom and glory of sons of God!



7

Huge Topic

- + Topics that can't be covered in one sermon
 - † Faith, Sin, Repentance
 - † Cover one single sub-topic well
- + Providing little information, with long tedious explanations
 - † Long introductions
 - † Long explanations of small matters that belittles people's mentality



8

Boring



Repetitious

Well-known topics covered repetitively

- "Boundaries" - always starts from the beginning

Using the same illustrations over and over



Memorized

Just repeating what is memorized without any "life"

Long

"We will divide this topic into 30 points!"

Long introductions!

9

Unattractive

- + Topic itself is not attractive
 - † Numbers 7:
 - † who gave what for the first Tabernacle
 - † Genealogy of Christ
- + Unattractive topic title
 - † "What is the church"
 - † "I will build my church"
 - † "The essential part of the Lord's plan"
 - † "You cannot live this new life in isolation"
- + Unattractive introduction



10

Unfit

- + Unfit topics
 - † "Marriage", for Middle School students
 - † "Homosexuality", in a general meeting
 - † "Jonah the Prophet", in a funeral
 - † "Fasting", during Holy Pentecost
- + Unfit Behavior
 - † Knocking, hitting, yelling, funny motions



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Unfit

- + Unfit verses: in a funeral
 - † "The Lord has need of him"
 - † "A living dog is better than a dead lion"
- + Incorrect verses
 - † The son of obedience will be blessed.
ابن الطاعة تحل عليه البركة
 - † Can't give what you don't have. فاقد الشيء لا يعطيه
- + Using verses incorrectly
 - † *"Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures"* (Mark 12:24)



12

Excessive Reprimands

- + Frequent reprimands, rebukes, insults, criticism, ridicule
- + Harsh, violent methods and words
 - † Girls who wear makeup are .. Boys who do ..
 - † Mothers whose kids roam the church...
- + Mis-use of *"Convince, rebuke, exhort"* (2Tim 4:2)
- + Where's the rest of the verse?
 - † *"Convince... with all longsuffering and teaching."*



13

Overloading

- + *"Woe to you also, lawyers! For you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers."* (2Tim 4:2)
- + Preach about unattainable virtues
- + Apply ascetism of desert fathers to laymen
 - † Complete silence (St. Arsenious)
 - † Blind obedience (St. John the Short)
- + Preach: Ecstasy, Vision of God (Life of Prayer)



14

Without Solutions

- + Presenting a topic about a problem, without offering solutions
- + Examples:
 - † "Should quit smoking"... How???
 - † "Should not wander during prayers"... How?

No room for repentance

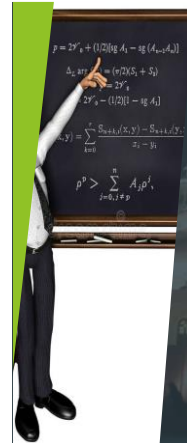
- + Closing the door... no hope
 - † People leave ashamed, broken
 - † Leave the church
- + Always leave a glimmer of light: hope
 - † *"...that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."* (Rom 15:4)



15

Unclear / Too Complex

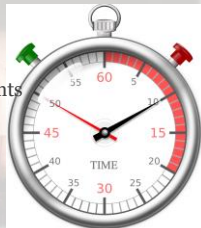
- + Using difficult words or expressions
 - † *"I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it"* (1Cor 3:2)
- + Using verses without proper understanding
 - † *"... Desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm."* (1Tim 1:7)
- + Elevate sermon via:
 - † X Language: rhetoric, poetry, philosophy
 - † ✓ Spiritual depth



16

Not Respecting Time

- + Too Long
- + Not in proper time (early/late liturgy)
- + Not observant of people's behavior
 - † Looking at watches, shifting in seats
 - † Continues regardless
- + Observant preacher
 - † Wrap up, skip less important points
 - † Summarize



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Mistakes in Preaching

- + Unstructured
- + Without persuasion
- + Huge topic
- + Boring
- + Unattractive
- + Unfit
- + Excessive Reprimands
- + Overloading
- + Without solutions
- + Without hope
- + Unclear/complex
- + Not respecting time



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