

Developing and Structuring a Sermon

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’” (Mark 16:15 NKJV).

Laying the Foundation: Preparation

Before beginning to write out your sermon the Lord has given you, answer the below questions.

1. What do you want to convey to the audience?
2. What thesis should you state for your sermon focus?
3. Which two to three key points should you cover to support the topic thesis?
4. What scriptural basis supports the topic and key points of the message?
5. What examples and illustrations elaborate the key points?
6. DO NOT be afraid to change what you originally had. Let the Holy Spirit perfect your message.

Critical Points for Sermon Development

- The audience can tell if you're anointed. Know God will use you through your sermon. You must, must spend time with the Holy Spirit to develop your sermon.
- The Bible is of no private interpretation (2 Pet 1:20-21). Stay away from a subject of which you do not have familiarity, rather than give an incorrect interpretation.
- Illustrations make lasting impacts.

Writing Your Sermon: Organization

Once you answer the questions above, organize your content for an effective message as such:

Introduction

- Sermon introduction grabber
- Thesis statement
- Your points

Body Point

- Your point
- Scriptural basis for your point
- Expounding on your point

Conclusion

- Re-introduce points as a reminder to your audience
- Final statements in alignment with your previous points
- Write a strong conclusion!

Adapting Your Sermon to Meet Culture: Fundamentals

1. Seek God's guidance!
2. Ask questions to someone who works with the audience to which you'll preach!
3. Use words your audience will understand.
4. Keep in mind various cultures respond differently to certain things: dress, sermon presentation, etc.
5. When preaching to an audience with a large amount of non-believers be careful not to speak in tongues (1 Cor 14:11).
6. Be humble and deny the mindset of this is how I preach.

Points to Consider

1. If you don't feel excited about what you'll preach, neither will your audience!
2. Use *we* instead of *you* to avoid sounding arrogant and above the audience
3. Time out your sermon! God will give you a lot of information because He wants to minister to you first to convey His message. This might mean cutting out some things so you can fit to a short time frame.
4. Keep in mind that Pastor Dan can say things and get away with them because of 40 years experience! We can't get away with saying Blackarican or Felicia's Korean wig.
5. Don't be afraid to go deep with your message. If you struggle to articulate your point, make sure you write out exactly what you want to convey.
6. Look up the correct pronunciations of towns, names, and Greek transliterations you use in your sermon.
7. Be careful how you quote from sources outside Scripture. For example, only use a Bible dictionary to define words, not Webster's.
8. The Gospel is a rock of offense (1 Pet 2:8), which means our messages could be controversial because we preach truth and some people don't like to hear it. However, since we aren't the senior Pastor, we have to be careful not to talk about topics outside of our authority to guide the body. For example, do not preach whom a person should vote for, how to dress, etc. 😊.

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