

“The Development and Delivery of Expository Sermons – Steps 1-4”

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I. Choose Your Text

- A. An old recipe for rabbit stew starts out, “first catch the rabbit.”
- B. Why use a text?
 - 1. Because we are expositors and not speculators
- C. How to pick a text?
 - 1. The text is the master
 - 2. It’s the authority
 - 3. Practice variety

II. Read Your Text and Meditate on It

- A. The problem of “Saturday Night Fever”
 - 1. Illustration- an Anglican clergyman who was lazy
 - 2. *“Read the text, re-read it, and read it again. Turn it over and over in your mind, like Mary the mother of Jesus wondered at all the things the shepherds had told her, pondering them in her heart (Luke 2:18, 19). Probe your text, like a bee with a spring blossom, or like a hummingbird probing a hibiscus flower for its nectar. Worry at it like a dog with a bone. Suck it as a child sucks an orange. Chew it as a cow chews the cud. To these similes Spurgeon adds two more, the worm and the bath. ‘It is a great thing to pray one’s self into the spirit and marrow of a text; working into it by a sacred feeding thereon, even as the worm bores its way into the kernel of the nut.’ Again, let us, dear brethren, try to get saturated with the gospel. I always find that I can preach best when I can manage to lie asoak in my text. I like to get a text, and find out its meaning and bearings, and so on; and then, after I have bathed in it, I delight to lie down in it, and let it soak into me.” – John Stott (Between Two Worlds)*
- B. Four rules for the study of a Bible book (G. Campbell Morgan)
 - 1. Read and gain an impression.
 - 2. Think and gain an outline.
 - 3. Meditate and gain an analysis.
 - 4. Sweat and gain an understanding.
 - 5. When you read:
 - a) Read a variety of translations.
 - b) Read observantly
 - 1) Keywords, phrases
 - c) Read prayerfully

d) Read obediently

III. Study the Passage

- A. Study the historical background of the book.
- B. Look for the thought unit
 - 1. Outline the book
 - 2. How many verses will you cover?
- C. Relate your passage to the book or chapter that it is found in
 - 1. Genre?
- D. Study keywords and grammar
 - 1. Word pictures in the New Testament (A.T. Robertson)
 - 2. Word meanings in the New Testament (Ralph Earle)
- E. Study the passage to determine the exegetical idea
 - 1. Read good, exegetical commentaries
 - 2. Read homiletical commentaries
- F. Keep a notebook
- G. Eight hermeneutical principles
 - 1. Literal meaning (plain or normal)
 - 2. Authorial intent (one meaning)
 - 3. The Lexical principle (meaning of words)
 - 4. Grammatical structure
 - 5. Historical background
 - 6. Literary genre
 - 7. Figures of speech
 - 8. Progressive revelation

IV. Determine the Big Idea

- A. Your goal is to preach the meaning of the text.
 - 1. Your sermon should have a single, dominant idea supported by other ideas, all drawn from the text.
 - 2. A sermon should be a “bullet” and not “buckshot.”