

“The Development and Delivery of Expository Sermons – Steps 5-7”

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V. Outline Your Sermon

- A. Every sermon should have a destination
 - 1. It also needs a clear path to get there
 - 2. A sermon outline charts the path for the sermon to reach its intended destination.
 - 3. Some sermons are like the dawn of creation as recorded in chapter 1 of Genesis, “without form and void.”
 - 4. *“Outlines are the burrs that lodge themselves in the minds of our listeners.”* –Jerry Vines
- B. Advantages of sermon outlines
 - 1. For the preacher
 - a) It gives structure to the sermon
 - b) It helps his sermon to follow a logical flow
 - c) It helps him to see his sermon in its entirety
 - d) It helps him have a sense of pace and place in the sermon
 - 2. For the congregation
 - a) Easy to follow
 - b) Easy to understand
 - c) Easy to remember
- C. When outlining your sermon
 - 1. Get your points from the text
 - a) And sub points, if possible
 - 2. There should be a logical connection between your points
 - 3. Try to make your points have application
 - a) Ask questions
 - b) “I had six faithful friends, they taught me all I knew. Their names are “How” and “What” and “Why” and “When” and “Where” and “Who.”
 - 4. Be careful with alliteration.

VI. Filling in the Sermon Outline

- A. Making dry bones live
 - 1. It’s filling in the outline with supporting materials that clarify, amplify, and apply the points
 - 2. Often, as you are preaching, the people listening will be asking several questions
 - a) What does he mean by that?

- b) What evidence does he have for that statement?
 - c) Sounds good, but does it work in real life?
- B. How to fill in your sermon outline
 - 1. Restatement (not repetition)
 - a) The skillful preacher learns to restate a point several times in different ways.
 - 2. Definitions
 - a) Define words and terms
 - 1. Illustration- Justification
 - 3. Facts
 - a) Illustration- Statistics, examples, observation
 - b) Make sure your facts are true and up to date.
 - 4. Quotations
 - 5. Illustrations
 - a) “Like windows in a house to let light in”
 - b) Illustrations add light, aid memory, hold attention, and stir emotion
 - c) Characteristics of a good illustration
 - 1. Tasteful and appropriate
 - 2. Relevant (closely connected)
 - 3. Simple (easy to understand and follow)
 - 4. Told well (try not to read them)
 - d) Cautions in using illustrations
 - 1. Illustration books
 - 2. Too many
 - 3. Not true
 - 4. Not clear
 - 5. Preach the text, not the illustration

VII. The Introduction

- A. The introduction
 - 1. Its importance
 - a) During the introductions, your audience decides whether or not they want to listen to you.
 - b) You want to gain their attention.
 - c) It’s the front porch of the house.
 - d) Don’t make it too big or too small.
 - 2. Its purpose
 - a) To command attention and awaken interest.

- b) “It is the same with men as with donkeys; whoever would hold them fast must first get a very good grip on their ears.” (Russian Proverb)
- c) How do I get attention and awaken interest?
 - 1. Ask a question that surfaces a need.
 - 2. Tell a story
 - 3. Tell a joke
 - 4. Give a startling fact or statistic.
 - 5. Make a statement about the text.
- d) Introduce your subject
- e) To bring clarity
- f) It should have unity.
- g) It should have brevity.
 - 1. After you get water, stop pumping.
 - 2. “He was so long setting the table, she lost her appetite for the meal.” – John Owen
- h) It should have variety.
- i) It should not promise more than it delivers.
- j) It should not be too loud, sensational, or emotional.
- k) Try not to read your introduction (keep eye contact)
- l) It should not be an apology.