

Philosophy of Preaching

*Our task is to enable God's revealed truth to flow out of the Scriptures
into the lives of men and women today.*

-John Stott

[PROCESS]

- DEVOTIONAL - "Scripture inspires preachers to be inspired so as to make Scripture inspiring." -Michael J. Quicke
 1. Begin with the Scripture from which you are teaching
 2. Let the text read you (*lectio divina*)
 3. Jot down preliminarily thoughts such as you would in a journal*Consider making this your practice on Monday and writing the sermon later in the week. That way the text can live in you for days before writing your sermon.

Remember, the sermon is an event where God brings the eschatological future to bear in the present. It is a supernatural event, not a speech. This means the Holy Spirit must take the spoken words and plant them into hearts for transformation. A sermon "works" when God empowers it... God best empowers "it" when God most inspires you. God inspires you when you sit quietly, and permit God to fill you whole.

- EXEGETICAL - "A preacher is one who develops disciplines of being commandeered by Scripture." -William Willimon
 1. Read various translations and commentaries
 2. Make notes
- ORGANIZATIONAL - "The task of preaching is not to set out some reality in life and then go to the Bible to find extra wisdom. It is instead to tell the story of the Bible so clearly that it calls into question and ultimately redefines what we think we know of reality and what we call wisdom in the first place." -Thomas Long, *The Witness of Preaching* (36)
 1. What did the text mean historically?
 2. What textual themes are prominent?
 3. Use themes as your main points (containers to drop quotes/stories/ideas into)
- CONTEXTUAL
 1. What books speak on the themes of the text can you pull quotes and insights from?
 3. What local stories could be used to further develop the themes?
- SACRAMENTAL
 1. How does the truth spoken reveal the purpose of the Eucharist?
 2. How does this sermon require the power revealed in the Eucharist?

[APPROACH]

FIRST - Theological - Who is the God rendered in this sermon? Are you coming at the text with a Trinitarian approach - what does this Scripture speak about the nature of Father, Son and Spirit?

SECOND - Anthropological - How does God's nature and acts inform our existence?

THIRD - Testimonial - Do you have narrative(s) to support the propositions of your content?

Can you sum the sermon in a tweet?

SOURCES

Scriptural - What has God said to previous generations?

Cultural - What is happening in the broader culture?

-Book by recent voices (Sayers, Crouch, etc.)

-Magazines (New Yorker, Time Mag.)

-Newspapers and Publications (NY Times, The Atlantic)

Contextual - What is happening in the lives of my parish and neighborhood where parish exists?

