

# Lesson 7

## HOMILETICS

### INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the nature and importance of preaching.
- To study the different types of sermons.
- To understand the use of illustrations.
- To sharpen our skills in the delivery of sermons.

### LESSON OUTLINE

Text: 1 Pet.4:10-11

- I. Introduction
  - A. Definitions
  - B. Homiletics:- Art and Science of Preaching
  - C. Ways of studying Homiletics
  - D. Definitions of preaching
  - E. The importance of preaching
  - F. Nature of presentation in preaching
  - G. Content of preaching
  - H. Purpose of preaching
  - I. Nature of forcefulness
  - J. Differences between preaching and teaching
  - K. Types of speech
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- II. CLASSIFICATION OF SERMONS
  - A. Topical Sermon
  - B. Textual Sermon
  - C. Expository Sermon
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- III. SERMON PREPARATION
  - A. Prepare so that people will listen to you
  - B. Sermon preparation involves Selection, Substance and Structure.
  - C. Altar Call
  
- IV. ILLUSTRATION AND APPLICATION
  - A. Illustration
  - B. Application

- V. DELIVERY OF SERMONS
  - A. Style
  - B. Elocution
  - C. How to captivate the interest of your listeners
  - D. Practical principles in presentation
  - E. Spiritual principles in presentation
  - F. How to preach through an interpreter
  - G. Some temptations to avoid as a preacher
  - H. Conclusion

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. *Definitions*

1. **Homiletics**: a study of the **theory** and **practice** of preaching.
2. **Sermon**: a message containing **scriptures**, with **explanation**, **illustration** and **application** for Christian living.
3. **Text**: A passage of **scripture** which the preacher chooses to use for his sermon.
4. **Subject**: Central **idea** of the sermon.
5. **Title**: **Name** given to sermon.
6. **Outline**: List of the **main** ideas of sermon.

### B. *Homiletics: - Art and Science of Preaching*

1. Scope of homiletics. It involves the following:
  - a) **Preparation** and **Delivery**.
  - b) **Human** and **Divine**.
  - c) **Preacher** and **Listener**.

2. Misconceptions about homiletics

“Well, I don’t need the mechanics of homiletics, I just stand there and allow the Holy Spirit to speak through me.”

Answer: We must be **spiritual**, that is to have the **anointing**, but we also need to be **organised** in our delivery.

“Well, our old preachers in Bible days did not go to Bible school for hermeneutics or homiletics.”

Answer: Paul – Went through Rabbinical training under Rabbi Gamaliel.  
Stephen – His preaching in Acts 7 was homiletically sound.

C. *Ways of studying Homiletics*

1. Formal study.
2. Study preachers and their preaching.
3. Analyze your own Preaching.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach. **John 16:13**

D. *Definitions of preaching*

1. "Preaching is the **personal proclamation** of the **word of God** through the enablement of the **Holy Spirit** for the purpose of **persuading** persons to be **reconciled** to GOD, grow in **grace**, and **live** the abundant life in Jesus Christ the Lord." Dr. Jesse K. Moon
2. Preaching involves God and Man. **1 Corinthians 3:9.**
3. Preaching should always have application.
  - Good preaching is God-centered and life-centered, bringing about a change in behavior. **Romans 12:1-2.**
4. Preaching should bring out the authority of God's Word.
 

To have authority the preacher must have character.

E. *The importance of preaching*

1. **God** uses **Man** to preach:

He revealed Himself in four ways:

- a) Word: **2 Timothy 3:16.**
- b) Son: **John 1:14,18**
- c) Spokesman: **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, Ezekiel**
- d) Holy Spirit: **John 16:13-14**

2. Biblical examples of preaching:

- a) **Matthew 3:1:** "John the Baptist came **Preaching** ..."
- b) **Matthew 4:17:** "From that time on **Jesus** began to **preach**."

- c) **Mark 3:13 &14:** "...that he might send them out to **preach**.  
 d) **1 Corinthians 1:17:** "For **Christ** did not send me to baptise but to **preach**."

#### F. *Nature of presentation in preaching*

1. **Proclamation:** Greek - *kerusso*: to **proclaim** like a **herald**.  
60 times in N.T., 53 times "to preach".  
Expresses the idea to proclaim formally.
2. **Personal:** Greek - *laleo*: to **talk** or **discourse**.  
284 times in NT, to speak, to talk.  
Expresses the idea of informal conversation.
3. **Experiential:** Greek - *martureo*: to bear **witness** or to **testify**.  
Expresses the idea of personal experience.
4. **Dialogical:** Greek - *dialegomai*: hold **dialogue**.  
e.g. Jesus' teaching contains dialogue - Questions & Answers.
5. **Thorough:** Greek - *katanggello*: translated to **Preach**.  
17 times in NT, eg. Romans 15:19.  
Expresses the idea of telling thoroughly and with authority.  
e.g. Stephen's preaching.
6. **Authoritative:** Greek - *parrhesiazomai*: to speak **openly, boldly** and **fearlessly**.

#### G. *Content of Preaching*

1. **Good-News:** *euangelion*: to tell **good news**.
2. **Christ - Centred:** *kerygma*: **Acts 2:14-40**.
3. **Bible - Centred:** *logos*: the **Word**.

Its content should be God's message to man.

**Acts 20:26-27**, Paul declaring: "The whole counsel of God."

**1 Corinthians 2:2**, Paul declaring: "I resolve to know nothing ... except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

## H. Purpose of Preaching

1. **Evangelism:** *euaggelion*: **good news.**
2. **Instruction:** *didasko*: **teach.**
3. **Growth:** *oikodomeo*: **to edify** - Spiritual, moral, social.
4. The purpose of preaching should also be to **inform, persuade** and provoke a **response** to the message of God.
  - a) The purpose of preaching is not to stir people to action while bypassing their minds so that they never see what reason God gives them for the necessary action. (This is **manipulation**).
  - b) Neither is preaching to fire peoples' minds with truth and not resulting in a changed life. This would be **academicism** - theory.

**Romans 6:17**, regarding the Romans Paul wrote:

*"You wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted."*

5. Preaching should bring the **presence** of God.

## I. Nature of forcefulness

1. **Truth:** *Aletheia*: **John 8:32.**
2. **Anointing:** *Charisma*: **Luke 4:18.**
3. **Demonstration:** *Apodeixis*: **1 Corinthians 2:4.**
  - a) Human lips declaring God's message brings divine authority. Paul stated in **2 Corinthians 2:16** that there are people who peddle the Word of God for profit:
 

*"Unlike so many, we do not peddle the Word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God."*
  - b) **1 Corinthians 2:4** : *"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power..."*

**J. Differences between preaching and teaching**

	<b>Preaching</b>	<b>Teaching</b>
1	One - shot	Continuity
2	One - way Communication	Allows feed-back & participation
3	No particular materials	Printed materials, books and Bible
4	Less Apparent Structure	More apparent structure

**K. Types of speech**

1. **Formal public speaking:** Full wording (Manuscript).
2. **Notes - aided speaking:** Structured outline.
3. **Extemporaneous speaking:** Impromptu, without notes or manuscript.

**L. Conclusion**

1. **Matthew 10:6-7:** *“Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message “The Kingdom of Heaven is near”.*
2. **Acts 5:42:** *“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.”*
3. **2 Timothy 4:1-2:** *“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His Kingdom, I give you this charge:  
  
Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.”*
4. **Titus 1:3:** *“And at His appointed season He brought His Word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour.”*

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF SERMONS

### A. Topical Sermon

A sermon whose form of construction is based on the **SUBJECT**.

#### 1. Example of a Topical Sermon

Title: LOVE

Text: **1 John 4:7**

- a) What is Love? **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**
- b) Who to Love? **Matthew 22:37-39**
- c) How to Love? **Matthew 22:37-39; Ephesians 5:25**

#### 2. Advantages of a Topical Sermon

- a) Enables the preacher to keep moving towards **goal** of sermon.
- b) Permits **liberty** of composition and full treatment of any subject.

#### 3. Disadvantage of a Topical Sermon: Quite difficult to deal with a major **theme/ series**, if the preacher's taste is topical.

### B. Textual Sermon

A sermon which is built upon a **text** and yet can be fortified by other scriptures.

#### 1. Example of a Textual Sermon.

Title: Trials

Text: **James 1:2-4**

- a) Joy in the mist of Trial v. 2
- b) Trial can bring perseverance v. 3
- c) Perseverance can bring maturity v. 4

#### 2. Advantages of a Textual Sermon.

- a) Fixes **attention** on one part of scripture.
- b) Hearers can **follow** with ease and satisfaction.
- c) God anoints His **WORD**.



3. Disadvantage: Inadequate preparation can lead to **shallow** preaching.

### C. Expository Sermon

A sermon which is mainly built upon an **extended passage** whose exposition is based on key words and ideas in the text without much cross reference.

1. Example of an Expository Sermon

Title: A mighty Man on His Knees  
Text: **Psalm 51**

- |    |  |       |
|----|--|-------|
| a) | He begins with the need for forgiveness  | v 1-6 |
|    | (i) Casts himself on the mercy of God    | v 1   |
|    | (ii) Longs for the cleansing of his soul | v 2   |
|    | (iii) Confesses his sins against God     | v 3-4 |
|    | (iv) Deplores his guilt before God       | v 5-6 |

2. Advantage of an Expository Sermon  
- covers much **in-depth** in Bible studies. Builds the congregation.
3. Disadvantage: Too lengthy; becomes **irrelevant** to listeners.

### D. *Difference between a textual sermon and an expository sermon*

The **textual** sermon differs from the **expository** sermon in that the **textual** sermon derives from its text only a **skeleton** which is filled in any way the preacher desires or the subject requires; while the **expository** sermon derives from its text both **skeleton** and **meat**.

## III. SERMON PREPARATION

### A. *Prepare so that people will listen to you*

Gone are the days when people yearn to listen to sermons. Today preachers must compete to be heard.

1. Direct your preaching towards the **audience**. Jesus always directed what He wanted to say towards the audience.

- a) To the woman at the well He spoke of the **water** of life.
- b) To the blind man He spoke of the **light** of the world.

We need to direct our preaching towards the many problems that people are facing - alcoholism, drug abuse, divorce, suicide, etc.

2. Develop your **attitude**.

To get people to listen to us we must develop our attitudes. If we portray an attitude such as:

- a) "I know it all", a superior attitude, we will not connect with the people.
- b) "I'm holier than you", people will switch off in their listening.

**B. Sermon preparation involves Selection, Substance and Structure.**

1. Selection

- a) Once the **goal** or **theme** is determined, then the type or form can be chosen as to whether it's
  - (i) topical
  - (ii) textual
  - (iii) expository.
- b) Factors governing selection of goal or theme:
  - (i) Leading of the **Holy Spirit: John 12:49-50.**
  - (ii) **Occasion: Proverbs 25:11**  
e.g. not a funeral sermon for a wedding.

E.g. of different occasions:

- funeral: **John 11: Lazarus**
- dedication: **1 Samuel 1:28**
- wedding: **Ephesians 5: Husband and Wives**
- revival: **Joel 2: Repentance to Revival**
- mission: **Matt 9:37 : Labourers are few**

(iii) **Circumstance** of Hearers: **Ephesians 4:29**

\*No point preaching salvation to believers.  
eg. Economic crisis : Trust in the Lord.

(iv) **Types** of People : children, youth, students, women.

c) Ways to define your audience:

To be an effective preacher you must know your audience. Here are some questions you can ask before you preach.

- (i) **Who** are my audience?  
(Age, sex, background, prejudice)
- (ii) **What** are their questions?  
(Their thoughts, feelings, struggles, pains, needs)
- (iii) **Which** of those questions shall I address?
- (iv) What is **God's answer** to this question?

d) After selecting the theme, select the **Text** -

WORD OF GOD is Authority.  
Choose a text that makes **sense**.  
eg. Topic: Doers of the WORD.  
Text: Matthews 27:5 - Judas hanged himself

e) **Positive** text rather than a negative text.

eg. Topic: The Tongue

**Proverbs 16:23** : *A wise man's heart guides his mouth and his lips promote instruction.*  
**Revelation 21:8** : Liars - place is lake of fire.

f) As a **general** rule, choose one text to one sermon.

2. Substance

a) Sources of Substance:

- (i) Revelation by the **Holy Spirit** : **John 16:13**.
- (ii) **Bible**.
- (iii) Reading spiritual & secular **books**.
- (iv) **Experience** : Irrefutable  
e.g., **John 9:25**.

- (v) **Illustrations** : true/ fiction.  
: helps to remember truth.  
e.g., **2 Samuel 12:1-4.**

b) Principles of **Hermeneutics**:

In gathering substance, it is important to bear in mind some principles of hermeneutics.

What is hermeneutics?

It's the **art** and **science** of Biblical **interpretation**.

c) Some errors in interpretation of scripture:-

- (i) Extra-Biblical authority.
- (ii) Decontextualization.
- (iii) Literalism.

d) General principles for interpreting scriptures:

- (i) Let **scripture** interpret **scripture**.
- (ii) Principle of **context**.
- (iii) Original **meaning**.
- (iv) Common **sense**.

3. Structure

a) Ways to Structure

- (i) **Chronological** approach.  
eg. David: young man -- soldier -- King.
- (ii) **Geographical** approach.  
eg. Egypt -- wilderness -- Canaan.
- (iii) **Weaker** to Stronger approach  
eg. Lost coin, Lost sheep, Lost son.
- (iv) **Psychological** approach.  
eg. Peter: Fearful -- Doubtful -- Bold.
- (v) **Deductive** approach (From General to Specific).  
eg. Love all men,                      eg. Love your family,  
eg. Love your wife,                      eg. Love your children.
- (vi) **Inductive** approach (From Specific to General).
- (vii) **Contrast** approach.  
eg. A wise man and a fool.

- (viii) **Objection-answer** approach  
eg. Can a wicked man be saved?
- (vii) **Similarity** approach.  
eg. Christian life is like a race.

b) The Structure consists of **introduction**, **body** and **conclusion**.

(i) The Introduction:

“The introduction is the **preliminary** part of the sermon which is designed to secure the **favourable** attention of listeners, establish relationship between scripture used and its subject, state its **proposition**, and introduce its **body**.”

A good **introduction** gives a good **impression**.

Ways of Introduction:

- **Introduce** yourself.
- **Textual** approach.
- **Contextual** approach.
- **Quotation** approach.
- **Current News** approach
- **Illustrational** approach.
- **Poem** or **hymn** approach.
- **Problem** or **Question**.

Qualities of a Good Introduction:

- **Striking** - **Clear**
- **Brief** - **Positive**
- **Pertinent** - **Forthright**
- **Varied**

(ii) The Body:

The body of the sermon is the **part** of the message; whereby it is organised into sections by transitions, the message is expounded by supporting **scriptures**, explanation, illustration **and** application.

*Example of a sermon outline*

	<b>Title:</b> <b>Text: Mark 1:14-15</b>
<b>I)</b>	<b><u>Introduction :</u></b>  A.  B.
<b>II)</b>	<b><u>Body :</u></b>  A. Jesus came - His Advent. B. Jesus came preaching - His Mission. C. Jesus came preaching Repentance - His message.
<b>III)</b>	<b><u>Conclusion:</u></b>

(iii) The Conclusion

The part of a sermon in which the preacher **aims** his final efforts towards the **goal** of the sermon.

**Types of conclusion: -**

- **Recapitulation:** It is the **restatement** of main ideas in the message.
- **Illustration**
- **Quotation**
- **Appeal**

**Qualities of a Good Conclusion: -**

- **Brief**
- **Simple**
- **Positive**

Things to bear in mind when concluding your sermon:-

Conclusion is as important as introduction. Conclusion drives home the point. Conclusion is a bridge from conviction to action. Sermons must result in action.

- Good preaching results in a **change** in people.
- When concluding your sermon give **specific** guidelines for action.

### C. Altar Call

Things to bear in mind when giving an altar call.

Recognize that God is the One calling - **2 Corinthians 5:19-20**.

- 1) Check our **motives** when giving an altar call.
  - a) Why am I doing this?
  - b) Am I giving an altar call because it's a tradition?
  - c) On the other hand, if I do not give an invitation is it because of fear that people will not respond?
- 2) God always calls for **decision**.
  - a) From **Moses** "Who is on the Lord's side?"
  - b) From **Elijah** "How long will you waiver between two opinions?"
  - c) From **Peter** "Repent and be baptized everyone of you."
- 3) Give specific **instructions**.

Illus.: At the end of my sermon I am going to ask you to do something about it, to express your decision. I'm going to ask you to get up and come and stand here in the front.

- 4) Give adequate **explanation**. People need to know what responding to your invitation means, and what it doesn't mean.

Illus.: Leighton Ford: "You don't have to come forward to be a Christian, but you do have to confess Christ and follow Him openly." People need to know they can accept Christ in the quietness of their own heart, but also they need to know that there is something about open expression in public confession.

- 5) Some do's and don'ts.
  - a) Don't berate or **threaten** people.
  - b) Do make the invitation **clear** and **simple**.
  - c) Do wait **patiently**, giving people time to think and pray.  
However, don't extend and prolong and sing one more verse 20 times until the congregation groans inwardly for someone to go forward so the preacher will stop the altar call.
  
- 6) Give people the **freedom** and **time**.
  - a) Don't **force** a **decision**.  
Give **time**.

## IV. ILLUSTRATION AND APPLICATION

### *A. Illustration*

"An illustration is a means of throwing light upon a sermon by the use of an **example**."

1. Importance of Illustration:
  - a) It **clarifies** the message:  
  
It is especially important if your truth is abstract and difficult to understand.
  
  - b) It helps to **remember** your message:  
  
Truth may often be forgotten but a story or illustration most times will be remembered. Thus a story or illustration can act as a trigger for the memory to recall a message.
  
  - c) It **livens** the message:  
  
Man's ability to sustain attention is limited to a period of time. This is especially so when ministering to little children. It serves as a psychological break and allows a brief relaxation from intellectual concentration.



- d) It is a means of **repeating** concepts:

It strengthens what has been said and thus gives emphasis to the truth.

- e) It gives **relevance** and timeliness to preaching:

Illustrations are able to bridge the biblical ancient culture to our present modern time.

- f) It provides indirect **application**:

It is useful and helpful especially in preaching delicate or controversial issues.

**2 Samuel 12:14**, Nathan and Samuel.

2. Types of Illustrations:

- a) **Biblical** illustrations:

There are 66 books in the Bible, filled with stories and illustrations.

- b) **Homely** illustrations:

This is best as it relates to everyday life. Caution : Never use illustrations at the expense of your wife, husband or children.

- c) **Figure of speech** :-

(i) **parable**: A story used to teach a truth or moral lesson.

(ii) **analogy**: An example that show the resemblance in some aspects between things otherwise different.

eg. The christian life is like a race.

- d) **Current events**:

- e) **Quotations**:

3. Qualities of a good illustration:

a) **Striking** and **Interesting**.

An illustration may either make or break your sermon if not told properly.

b) **Relevant** to the point that you are making.

c) **Easy** to understand.

Remember the purpose of illustration is to **clarify** and not **confuse** your listeners.

d) **Brief** in length.

It should be a **complement** to the message and not so long that it robs the message of its importance.

Note: Beware of **irreverence**, frivolity and vulgarity.

**B. Application**

It is the process by which **truth** is brought to the **attention** of the individual for the purpose of **personal** response. It should be applied after **exposition** or **explanation** of truth.

1. Pre-requisites to Effective Application:

a) Preacher must have a **spiritual** life.

Paul exhorts Timothy: **1 Timothy 4:12** “.... *example in speech, life, love, faith and purity*”.

b) Preacher must be **well-informed**.

He must have general knowledge of **biblical**, and **secular** fields of study.

c) Preacher must be **tactful**.

The ability to relate to circumstances.

2. Principles in making truths relevant:
  - a) Truths should relate to basic **human** problems and needs.
  - b) **Dramatize** your sermon to make Bible characters and circumstances alive.
  - c) Employ principles that are **universal** for application that transcend the **time** factor.
  - d) Let applications be **specific**.
  - e) Never **aim** at specific individuals.
3. When you are giving application, ask yourself the following questions:
  - a) Are they **realistic**?
  - b) Can the people actually **do** them?
  - c) Would you yourself **personally** do them?
  - d) Are the action steps **responsible**? i.e. do they lead people to a greater personal responsibility?

## V. DELIVERY OF SERMONS

### A. *Style*

- 1) Be **personal** : Be yourself.
- 2) Be **clear** : Avoid difficult words.
- 3) Be **thought-provoting** : Ask **questions** for people to think aloud
- 4) **Interpretative Reading** : It's to paint the story by **words** and not **acting**.
- 5) **Dramatization** : It's **speaking** cum **acting**.

**B. Elocution**

It is the art of **effective** speaking from the view point of **utterance** or **delivery**.

1. **Pronounce** Properly
2. **Phrasing**: It is the art of speaking **words in groups** so that the thoughts we convey are clear and unambiguous.
3. **Pausing**: A pause before/ after a word or phrase.
4. **Volume**: It depends on the need to stress a point.
5. Change of **Pitch**:
  - a) High note : for excitement or surprise.
  - b) Low Note : for sadness or seriousness.
6. Change of **Pace**:
  - a) Quick : to build vitality
  - b) Slow : to emphasize the point to listeners
7. **Inflection**: It is the rise and fall of a note within a range of pitch for a Word.

e.g., **2 Samuel 18:33** "Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son"

**C. How to captivate the interest of your listeners?**

1. **Relevant**: eg. **Acts 17:22-23**: Paul at Mars Hill.
2. **Promising**: People often ask "What can I get out of this message?"
3. **New**: People like new ideas.
4. **Dramatic**: Use voice and action.
5. **Involve** audience: eg. Get them to repeat a statement.

**D. *How to be convincing?***

1. **Confident:** Don't start by saying, "I'm so nervous and this is the worst speech you'll ever hear!"
2. **Sincere:** Preach what you believe.
3. **Enthusiastic:** Be like a salesman who is enthusiastic about his product.
4. **Repeat:** The principle: Tell them what you are going to tell them. Then tell them again. Finally tell them what you have told them.
5. Associate your cause with the **good:** eg. Church growth and Cho Yonggi.
6. Touch the **emotions:** Not just theory or facts but reaching out to the hearts of the listeners.

**E. *Practical principles in presentation***

1. Unmoved by **audience:** **Jeremiah 1:8.**
2. **Posture:** Don't lean on pulpit.  
Beware of hands on hips like a cowboy.  
Avoid shaking legs when sitting on stage.  
Avoid playing with buttons, etc.
3. **Rapport:** Have eye-contact.
4. **Facial** Expression: Learn to smile but avoid a perpetual grin.
5. **Voice:** Be yourself. Don't try to imitate other preachers.
6. **Attire:** Dress neatly.
7. **Attitudes:** Don't joke for the sake of joking.
8. **Time:** Man is time conscious. Avoid swinging your hand to look at your watch.
9. **P.A.System:** Handle microphone with care, don't tap it to test the sound. Keep distance from microphone.

10. Don't over-react to **compliments**: People normally try to tell you the nice things.
11. Respect repeated **criticism**: If different people keep telling you the same things, there might be some truth in their criticism.
12. Avoid distracting "fill-in expressions": eg. OK, Erh, You know what I mean? etc.
13. Give **credit** to others: Should a pastor preach someone else's sermon when using their ideas, he should give credit for the source. Preaching ethics demands that you not re-tell a story as if it happened to you.
  - a) To use someone else's idea, without giving credit, is a form of **stealing**. In so doing you lose your credibility.
  - b) You cannot minister life to others if you have not lived out the sermon which originated from another speaker.

#### *F. Spiritual principles in presentation*

1. **Prayer**: Colossians 4:4
2. **Anointing**: Acts 10:38
3. **Faith**: Mark 11:22

#### *G. How to preach through an interpreter*

1. Use **short** sentences.
2. Avoid **complex** idioms.
3. **Pronounce** word properly.
4. **Consult** Interpreter.
5. **Plan** time.

H. *Some temptations to avoid as a preacher*

1. **Performing** while you preach.

It's very tempting to preach to please people.

It's very tempting to preach so that people will praise us.

\* Jesus admonished the Pharisees regarding:

Their desire to please people.

Their desire to receive praise from others.

2. Seeking a sermon during personal **meditation**.

Personal meditation or devotion is for our own spiritual benefit. If we are constantly seeking a sermon while having our personal devotion we may miss out on what God is trying to tell us personally.

3. To **rebuke** like an Old Testament prophet.

Jesus came with **grace and truth - John 1:14**.

Truth without grace can hurt the members.

4. Preparing without **prayer**.

5. **Imitating** another preacher.

Be yourself. God has made you different and there is no one else like you. Warren Wiersbe: "It's easy to imitate these days. Not only do we have books of sermons, but also we have radio and television ministries and cassettes by the thousands. One man models himself after Spurgeon, another after A.W. Tozer; and both congregations suffer."

The important thing is we need to accept ourselves and develop ourselves. We should not imitate others but we can learn from the many good preachers God has raised up.

## **I. CONCLUSION**

### **A. *Be simple***

Illus: John Wesley would read some of his sermons to an uneducated servant girl with the instructions, "If I use a word or phrase you don't understand, you are to stop me." In this way the learned Methodist preacher developed the language of the mines and the market place.

### **B. *Have questions to use for discussion group:***

- 1) What did the sermon say to you?
- 2) What difference, if any, do you think the sermon will make in your life?
- 3) How did the preacher's method, language, illustrations and delivery help or hinder you hearing the message?
- 4) Do you disagree with any of it?  
Feedback is the lifeblood of communication.

### **C. *Zeal in Preaching***

Abraham Lincoln: "When I hear a man preach, I like to see him act as if he were fighting bees."



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