

## LMWS STUDY DAY – 21 OCTOBER 2017

### PREACHING WITH PETER

- What is a sermon?
  - It is not a book report
  - Not a talk or a lecture
  - It should minister to people, not merely inform them
  - It should “move” people
  - Dictionary definition: noun
    1. discourse for the purpose of religious instruction or exhortation, especially one based on a text of Scripture and delivered by a member of the clergy as part of a religious service.
    2. any serious speech, discourse, or exhortation, especially on a moral issue.
    3. a long, tedious speech.
  
- What makes a good sermon?
  1. Engages the biblical text
    - Concrete description
    - Resonance with the listener to their life
    - Historical context / background detail
  2. Proclaims the Gospel – the Good News of our lives
    - Difference between **G**ospel = Good News and **g**ospel = Matthew, Mark, Luke John
    - We are here because we are called to know and love the world and yet we are church centred
  3. Connects God’s word to the lives of God’s people
    - We are so excited to share good news with others, but so reluctant to share the Good News
    - Marcus Borg book: “Salvation is to be Freed” – “salvation” root is from salve, healing; a good sermon is healing to the hearer and empowers them
  4. Is well organized and easy to understand
  5. Engages the imagination of the hearers
    - So much more is heard than what is said
    - A dialogue between the preacher and the hearer
  6. Is delivered well
    - Speaker is confident, articulate, speaks loudly and clearly
    - Delivered with passion and integrity
    - People must believe what we say
    - *Lay people can witness which can be so much more effective than trying to emulate a priestly preaching function*
  7. Orients the hearers to life in God’s world
  
- So how do we do it?

Chronological steps of sermon preparation:

- Two weeks before you are scheduled to preach, read through all the readings, including the Psalm,
  - Read out loud!
  - Read every word!
  - Read slowly
  - Do this twice, and pray.
  - Let the word permeate your thoughts and rumble around in your head
  - Ruminates on the readings – what are the themes?
  
- 12 days before you preach, read through the readings again and identify:
  - Common themes within the readings
  - Any theme, word or phrase that stands out
  - Ascertain the main thought of each passage
  - Engage in a group study/forum to discuss the readings
  - Trust God through the process
  
- 7 days before you preach:
  - Ruminates some more
  - Identify those to whom you're preaching
  
- Ask yourself...
  - Is it true?
  - Can we believe it?
 } Link to experience and witness to it
  
- Decide the purpose of the sermon:
  - What does the passage mean?
  - Why are you preaching it?
  
- Remember:
  - Every sermon should have one central “big idea”
  - After the sermon is written, read it aloud and ask yourself: “so what?”
  - Is it relevant?
  - It's impossible to preach an effective sermon if we don't specifically know what we're preaching about.
  
- Beginning and Ending
  - Construct the introduction and conclusion – have a “take home” message
  - A good way to start is with a question...
  - Title the Sermon with the key theme
  
- How long should you preach?
  - *“One should never spend more time preaching the Word, than one does hearing the Word.”* Bishop Jim Cruickshank
  - A good sermon can be as short as 5-8 minutes if it contains all the appropriate points as outlined above<sup>1</sup>.
  - No longer than 20 minutes

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<sup>1</sup> TTDNIM – The Tiny Dog Now Is Mine:  
Text, Theme, Doctrine, Need, Image, Message