



7 Reasons for Sermon Preparation

Sermon Preparation

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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Preparation is indicative of reverence for God, love for the truth, concern for the redemption of sinners, and the well being of the people of God. The opposite is true as well. Frivolity in one's approach to preaching is irreverent and less than a spiritual act of worship. We owe to our God, and to this solemn trust of the preachment, and to our brothers and sisters we are privileged to address, our very best effort every single time we mount the pulpit. I want to share with you 7 reasons why proper preparation is critical to preaching?

1) INTENTION: If you fail to plan you plan to fail (Genesis 22:7-8)

Abraham rose up early in the morning, and did not delay, but did all that he was able to do in preparation: the wood, the fire, and the boy and went forth, expecting the Lord at the place of meeting. So must the preacher carry to the pulpit great preparation for confident expectation that the Lord will meet him there?

2) DISTRIBUTION: You can't give what you have not received (Acts 4:13)

Peter and John's potency before the council is sourced in intimacy with Jesus. They could only give a word in public because they received a word in private. If you are to have a word from God to give to the people, you must have been with God to get it.

3) PRECISION: The word of God must be handled carefully (2 Timothy 2:15)

Paul admonished this young preacher, Timothy, to prepare through study, so you can "cut" the word "straight," which would result in (δόκιμον) approval. The approval that a young preacher (and all of us preachers) is looking for is in proper preparation.

4) CONSECRATION: God is Holy (2 Samuel 6:1-7)

Mishandling Holy God, as David found out through 1) irreverently transporting the Ark of the Covenant, and secondly the haphazard action of Uzzah the priest, carries with it deadly consequences. Every preacher is on dangerous and irreverent ground without preparatory consecration in the service of Holy God.

5) POSITION: Your role demands it (Hebrew 5:1-4)

The priest was God's representative. God had so placed him, and the people looked up to him. His position demanded the preparation of purification as demonstration of personal identification with the infirmities of the people. If a preacher will not spend time in preparation talking to God about his weakness, he can't SEE, nor INTERCEDE, nor ADDRESS the needs of the people in preaching.

6) EXECUTION: Your words will be tested in Spiritual Warfare (Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-12)

Jesus met the reality of the devil's attack with the scripture. The people you preach to must leave the sound of your voice to face the challenges of the devil in real life. The only equipment that can handle the devil is the word of God. Have you adequately prepared and equipped them with the truth?

7) EVALUATION: You've got to give account (James 3:1)

The preacher/teacher is an exalted position in the eyes of the people of God and God has reserved a stiffer penalty for those who occupy this space. The preacher's regard, preparation, and efforts need to measure up to an acute awareness of having to stand answerable to God for what he communicated to the people.

THINK YOURSELF EMPTY, READ YOURSELF FULL, WRITE YOURSELF CLEAR, PRAY YOURSELF HOT AND GO PREACH JESUS