



POINTS THAT POINT TO THE RIGHT ONE II

Sermon Preparation

Exodus 19:23

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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We use to say some preachers know about God, but they don't know God. However, today too many of us in this preaching fraternity don't even know about God. The bible is not about us; every verse in essence is about God.

Theology is the substance of series preaching. Every verse reveals theology. The holy nature and character of God is what sheds all light in any sermon. That is why we preach Jesus/the God-man/ the perfect man; because, if we want to do better, you don't hold up the crooked, the broken, the blemished, sinful; you hold up the sinless, the rule, the plumb line, and the goal of our faith. Theology exposes the imperfect in the light of Christological perfection. **I have concluded that so many terrible sermons today results from, not a bad theological system per se', but from the preacher having no theological system at all.** The bible is what is called a *meta-narrative*.

DEFINITION: *An overarching account or interpretation of events and circumstances that provides a pattern or structure for people's beliefs and gives meaning to their experiences.*

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/metanarrative>)

Let me put it another way, a meta-narrative is one big story filled with little stories that communicates in part or whole the meaning of the one big story.

The big story is 1) God exist, 2) God made man, 3) man sinned against God, and 4) Christ reconciled man back to God... Everything in the bible is this story. And every proper and true sermon is a re-telling of this story.

Only the keen theological mind can see it. And when you can see theology in the text (God's aseity, holiness, sovereignty, righteousness, immutability, goodness, severity, etc..) the burden of sermon preparation becomes easier. The many stories of the bible are one big story. The many truths of the bible are one big truth. The many lights of the bible are one big light.

The bible is one organic, unified, and comprehensive system. It serves as the theological context for any sermon, as well as the perimeters and borders that must not be breached or violated.

After you have studied a text in observation (what does the text say?) and a then in interpretation (what does the text mean?), we must shift to theological

mode: Where is God, man, sin, and Christ in the pericope. Here's what we are looking for...

How is sin wreaking havoc in the situation? (The sin problem)

How are the feeble efforts of men exhausted? (Man's inability)

How does faith in Christ remedy the situation? (Jesus saves)

Christ for you

Christ in you

Christ through you

20And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

21And the LORD said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish.

22And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

23And Moses said unto the LORD, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou chargedst us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it.

24And the LORD said unto him, Away, get thee down, and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto the LORD, lest he break forth upon them.

25So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them.

OBSERVATION: Moses answers God saying the people can't touch the mountain because of blockades.

INTERPRETATION: Moses blows off what God has said as unimportant

THEOLOGY: sovereignty, sin, presumption, pride

REFERENCES: The sin that lost Eden was presumption. Jacob's grasping at the birthright was presumption. Moses' smiting the rock twice was presumption. Saul's forcing himself to sacrifice when Samuel tarried was presumption. David's numbering the people was presumption. Peter striking off the ear of Malchus was presumption.

APPICATION: A careful examination of many sins will reveal presumption at the root of them. Still, if we read our lives right, we shall find that we are constantly presuming on what God would have us to do, and acting without making due inquiry of him.

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