



# SERMON PREP ANOMALIES

WJM Sermon Preparation

Baptist Ministers of Houston and Vicinity

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If you've been a pastor for any length of time, you know that sometimes your Sunday morning intentions just don't go as planned. What you intended for a sermon is not going to be your sermon this morning. I mean by that, either the Lord has changed your message or your sermon preparation time has been crowded out by other issues. These are Anomalies. An ANOMALY is something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected. It is an abnormality, an irregularity.

Let's deal with when the Lord changes your message; because, that is the easiest. **Preach what He has given you.** Now that is sometimes easier said than done; because, in my humble experience, sometimes that means God has decided to preach to you while you are preaching to them. Remember you need a sermon from the Lord every week too, just like they do. And when God changes your message, sometimes prep-time and preaching time becomes one. God is preaching to you in real-time instead of prep-time. And when God speaks, whatever you had prepared doesn't matter. There is something urgent that God sees that you may not see, and God is going to block it, fix it, convince them, convict them and/or convert them. There can never be a better sermon preached, than the one God is telling you to preach. And we ought to always stay sensitive to the Spirit of God.

So now let's turn to when your study/prep routine has been crowded out this week. What are some tips and short-cuts that can **prayerfully** get you through making a nutritious meal for your waiting congregation? LISTEN! God knows your situation and the honesty of your heart. If you depend on Him, He will show up.

**HERE'S THE STRATEGY: 1) Pray 2) Plan and 3) Preach...** Notice, that is not different than what you already do. You just normally have extended planning time. **In other words, Depend on God, get you a plan, and God will guide your footsteps (Proverbs 16:9.)** *Often, it won't turn out the way you started, but in the end you'll be satisfied with Jesus.*

**GOD'S GUARANTEE:** *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)*

## 9 TIPS FOR THE PLAN

1. Archives (Old sermons)
2. Sunday School Lessons (Past or current)
3. Just Teach (Instructions)
4. Back to the Basics (Elementary themes)
5. Preach part two of last week
6. Go to favorite and familiar texts
7. Old Bible Studies
8. Put up an associate (Rest, Training, and accountability)
- 9 Call someone in (Give the people a treat)

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