



THE SERMONIC BREATH

W/M Sermon Preparation

Luke 7:1-8

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Christ-Centered Preaching

Most sermons I hear today are as dead as a beaver hat. The message is ornate, warm, and some even furry; It has everything men want to hear and feel, but it's lifeless.

I find it tremendously unfortunate that many a preacher today don't know what he is supposed to be preaching. Popular preaching today is little more than bankrupt personal philosophy and experiences, rather than rich biblical theology. It's a whole lot of SPIRITED inspiration, and very little SPIRITUAL information about God.

If the point and points of the sermon don't leave you confused, on one hand, then on the other hand, if not confused, they never measure up to the mastery of life... namely Christ Himself. Let me be clear, WE PREACH CHRIST!!! And that is all! It is the death of Christ that saves you from HELL (from the penalty of sin); it is the life/character/ways/the Spirit of Christ that saves you from YOU (from the power of sin) right now.

TRUE PREACHING must consider the text with the THOUGHTS/MIND of God. Such a preacher must see in the text the WAYS and CHARACTER of God in Christ: in some texts by explication, other by implication, and and still others by allusion. In some way every verse acknowledges directly or indirectly the perfection and Excellency of Jesus Christ. **HE IS THE WORD!!!**

GREAT PREACHERS (not preachers who are great) THINK THEOLOGICALLY at every point in the sermon: 1) Who is God? 2) Who is man? 3) Men are sinful! and 4) Jesus Christ is the only one right. So we preach Christ.

SERMON EXAMPLE

TITLE: A Man Who Knows the Goodness of God

My theological thoughts in this title are:

1) Knows = Experience

2) Goodness = Purpose

CONCLUSION OF MY STUDY: *This man has come to 1) experience Jesus before he met Jesus 2) by living out his created purpose 3) in the divine ethic that Jesus just finished talking about.*

NOTE!!! NEVER COME UP WITH A THOUGHT THAT IS NOT TAUGHT... REF: *1 John 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*

And... I'm actually already in verse 1 *"Now when he had ended all **his sayings** in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum."*

REMEMBER BIBLICALLY

- Luke's purpose is to present Jesus as the perfect man
- Every Centurion in the bible is a good man (character study)
- The key to a passage is often the author's note at the door

BIG IDEA: "Great Faith"... (Alt "Relationships" – How he cared for men)...

Jesus gives the big idea of the text in verse 9: *"I have not found so 'GREAT FAITH', no, not in Israel."*

- The question that this passage begs is "What does 'So Great Faith' look like?"
- The most captivating preaching, especially in narrative passages, is found in the irony.
 - #1 He is serving His servant (v2-3)
 - #2 They said he is worthy but he said he's not worthy (v4-6)
 - #3 He believed what they were teaching down at that synagogue more than they believed it (v9)

This man knows Jesus because he's like Jesus through SO GREAT FAITH!!!

Preaching Christ in the Text

Jesus is the very word that was being taught in the synagogue. Through the tone and the tenor of the text, I don't think the Centurion's building of a synagogue for the Jews was politically motivated. He believed what they were teaching down there at that place more than they believed it thus his "so great faith".

#1 Solitude: He is serving his servant: Compassion of Christ v2-3

2And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. 3And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

#2 Servitude: He built the Jews synagogue: Charity of Christ v4-5

4And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: 5For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

#3 Attitude: He did not consider himself worthy: Character of Christ v6

6Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

#4 Similitude: He is a man of authority: Commission of Christ v7-8

7Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed 8For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

#5 Pulchritude: I have not found so great faith: Comeliness of Christ v9

9When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Great faith:

- He's a leader... Gain authority over others... v1
- He's creates unity through goodness... Everyone speaks of him in unison...
- He's is servant to all... makes things better for everybody...
- He's is the pleasure of God... His faith is commended as exemplary... v9
- He's granted his priestly prayer... His faithfulness bring healing to another... v10