



Methods to Prepare an Introduction Sermon Préparation

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The introduction ideally is the beginning of your presentation but the end of your preparation. The introduction is the bow on the present. You don't put the bow on the present until the end... you box the present, wrap the present, and then tie the bow on it. Yet the bow is the first thing the person to whom the gift is given will encounter. The best introductions are generally developed at the end of the sermon preparation.

The introduction is the first way your listeners will encounter your sermon. First impressions are lasting impressions (your title is a part of your introduction.) The goal of your introduction is to:

- **Arrest the people's attention.** - When you take the platform, the people looking at you are subconsciously asking themselves, "Is this worth listening to?" Your job is to get them to think, "Okay, I'm interested. Go on." Cause them to *"anticipate the journey."*
- **Introduce your topic.** - Ideally your introduction will contain your thesis: "What are you saying, and what are you saying about that?"
- **Reveal your conclusion.** - As a matter of fact a good introduction will reinforce your conclusion.

There are some introduction hazards. To name a few:

- 1) You can fail before you get started by NOT CLEARLY STATING what you are talking about.
- 2) You can put yourself behind the ball and playing catch up your whole sermon by NOT CLEARLY KNOWING what you are talking about.
- 3) You can run the wrist of a downhill sermon by your introduction SETTING AN EXPECTATION you can't deliver on.

Proper preparation will facilitate your introduction. **The introduction needs to be your sermon in a nutshell.** It should contain your opening and your closing. The rest of the sermon is your journey from here to there. And since the map is your text, the introduction can be, and I think should be an introduction to the subject matter (topic) from the text. *(I think that is the simplest way, safest, and most sound way, although not the only way. I am only giving you a general standard...)*

- 1) *The subject matter method... One is dealing with a topic drawn from the pericope (*most dynamic*)
i.e. 1) a testimony, 2) a story, 3) an illustration, 4) a contrast to the subject, 5) the subject matter itself defined, 6) a bold statement, 7) a shocking statistic, 8) current event, 9) an interesting question
- 2) The walk up to a text method... One gives the preceding chapters or story line that leads the pericope
- 3) The background method... One gives the historical context of the situation of pericope

* pericope - an extract from a text, especially a passage from the Bible or the "preaching portion."

The sermon really is comprised of saying the same thing, three different ways... FIRST, in brief, SECOND, in explanation, and THIRD, in summation.

eg. **TEXT:** Daniel 1:8

TITLE: Standing on the Word of God

INTRO: Glorifying God often comes through cultural defiance.

I. Daniel REFUSED what opposed God's word. (v8)

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's food or wine.

II. Daniel REASONED for his faith. (v11)

11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12"Please test your servants for ten days.

III. Daniel's stance REVEALED the glory of God. (v15)

15 And at the end of ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished than all the young men who were eating the king's food.

CONCLUSION: God will show His glory by you keeping His word.

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

Introducing Examples to “Standing on the Word of God”

1) A STORY INTRO

A preacher was about to discipline his Son. He told him, “Junior, go to your room.” When he was ready to discipline his son, he went into the boy’s room and there was his son standing on the coffee table Bible. He said, son what are you doing? His son replied, “Daddy when you were preaching the others Sunday, you said standing on the word of God will get you out of trouble.” This little story expresses the sentiments of Daniel. Daniel always stood on the word of God.

2) A TESTIMONY INTRO

I was in New York City, for the first time. I had no intention on sightseeing as my stay was brief. I was on my way to do lectures on my book. The black car driver, who was a Muslim, asked me, what brings you to the city. I told him I’d come to do a series of lectures. He then asked me, if you don’t mind what kind of lectures? I said, “Well I’m a Christian.” He said excitedly, “I believe in Jesus too.” I replied, “You don’t believe what I believe about Jesus. You believe he’s a good man and a prophet, but I believe He’s God.” From that point on he offered to drive me around the city to see everything I wanted to see, just to talk to me about Jesus. Daniel would have us to know, there’s always a blessing in standing on the word of God.

3) A CONTRAST INTRO

Will you take a moment this morning and think about a time when you were in a situation, you thought about the word of God, and you decided to do the opposite?

- Sometimes it’s rebellion (I’m going to do what I want to do)
- Sometimes it’s compromise (I think I’ll come out better doing this)
- Sometimes it’s weakness (I’m too fearful or doubtful to trust the word of God)
- But all of the time, it’s wrong!!!

Daniel teaches us, you are always better off standing on the word of God.

4) A MULTIFACETED INTRO (*Testimony, Story, Poem, Quotation*)

Interesting enough, as a child I would get this story of Daniel in the Lion’s Den, confused with the story of Gunga Din. I can’t really remember why, perhaps I had seen them both on the electric company or something like that

“Gunga Din” (1892) is one of Rudyard Kipling’s most famous poems, a rhyming narrative from the point of view of a British soldier, about a native water-bearer who saves the soldier’s life but dies himself. Perhaps best known for its often-quoted last stanza, “Tho I’ve belted you and flayed you, By the livin’ Gawd that made you, You’re a better man than I am, Gunga Din!” That is certainly the way I feel when I look at this man Daniel. He never breaks, he never bends, but he always stands on the word of God.

5) AN ILLUSTRATION INTRO

A “keystone” is a Roman architectural feature where the central wedge-shaped stone of an arch locks its parts together. And the more pressure applied to the stones, the stronger the structure becomes. That seems to describe the character of Daniel. No matter the weight or pressure, there is no compromise in him.

6) A BOLD STATEMENT INTRO

If you don’t stand for anything, then you’ll fall for everything, but Daniel stood with God on everything, and never fell for anything.

7) A SHOCKING STATISTIC INTRO

A George Barna survey finds that only 9% of self-identified Christians hold a Biblical Worldview, and will not compromise with the culture. Daniel was that kind of man. He always stood on the word of God.

8) CURRENT EVENT INTRO

You may remember the news story of “Brandt Jon,” who shocked many when he told Amber Guyger he forgives her for wrongfully killing his brother “Botham Jon” by negligently shooting through the door. We often highlight the fact of “his forgiveness,” but his forgiveness was based in unwillingness to compromise on the word of God. Daniel was this kind of fellow too. Daniel always stood on the word of God.

9) AN INTERESTING QUESTION INTRO

Let me start off by asking you a question this morning. When would you say that it’s all right to compromise on the word of God? Daniel would raise his hand and answer this question, never!

10) A QUOTE INTRO

Mahatma Gandhi once said, “If it weren’t for Christians, I’d be a Christian.” In other words far too many Christians don’t live up to the designation. But Daniel was not that kind of saint. He never would bend on what he believed. He always stood on the word of God.