

## Why and How to Illustrate

[These lectures correspond to assigned  
Reading #13: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 174-190;  
and, Reading #14: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 190-207.]

*For mid-term review of Lecture 12:*

*What are the three stages of preparing explanation?*

*What are the three stages of presenting explanation in a "typical" main point?*

*Complete the following: "You owe no more to explanation . . . ."*

Goal for these lessons: To understand why preachers use illustrations in expository preaching, and to learn how to create and use illustrations in expository preaching.

### Lecture 13: Why to Illustrate

#### **Introduction:**

#### **I. Why Illustrate?**

A. Why Not?

B. Why?

1. The Way We Live
2. The Way of "Giants"
3. The Way We Learn
4. The Way We Motivate
5. The Way Scripture Teaches
6. The Way Jesus Speaks
7. The Way We Know God

[Assignment for Next Class: Reading # 14: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 190-207.]

*For mid-term review of Lecture 13:*

*What are reasons for which preachers should not illustrate?*

*What are reasons for which preachers should illustrate?*

## Lecture 14: How to Illustrate

### II. Isolate and Associate

- A. Isolate an event in experience  
and
- B. Associate it with the principle being related

◁> H.I.A. usually the best:

- Why old preacher's tales are problems
- Use your own mind, heart, reading, and experiences
- Use other's illustrations as catalysts for your own

### III. Narrate (Use Narrative [i.e., storytelling] Principles)

- A. Recognize "story" nature of illustrations
  
- B. Recognize illustration hierarchy

metaphor  
simile  
example  
analogy  
allusion  
illustration (distinguished by lived-body detail presented in narrative)  
allegory  
nouvelle  
novel

◁>allusion reports on the speaker's memory of an experience, illustration re-creates the experience.

### IV. How to use narrative components

- A. Introduce the Illustration-just as narratives have introductions, illustrations have introductions.

1. The conceptual introduction: "the last thing you said"
  2. The homiletical introduction: how to begin
    - a. shift gears: pause, put in the clutch
    - b. slice out the experiential context: separate by time, place or situation
      - i) separation by time
      - ii) separation in space
      - iii) separation of situation
    - c. avoid the uninvolved
- B. Use Concreteness and Detail (lived-body detail)
1. Why?
  2. How?
  3. What?
- C. Create Crisis
- D. Come to a Conclusion

## **V. Relate and Apply**

- A. The Necessity
- B. The Technique (i.e., Using "Grouping Statements")

A "grouping statement" (or, "interpreting statement") is a sentence or two following the illustration in which the preacher reaches into the illustration for details pertinent to his truth concept, extracts them and, then, ties them together with the central idea he wishes to communicate.

1. interpreting statements  
or
2. parallel phrases

Exposition                      **Statement of Main Point**

Illustration                      **Summary of Main Point**

Application                      **Summary of Illustration**

#### **VI. Illustration Sources:**

- A.
- B.
- C.

#### **VII. Illustration Cautions:**

- A. Do not think of illustrations more highly than you ought to think
- B. Do not think less of illustrations than you ought to think
  1. Only the Word changes people but you can get in the way by being needlessly dull, uninteresting or unconcerned about communication.
  2. Illustrations are a form of exposition (unfolding meaning for mind, heart and daily living).
  3. Illustrations require crafting with care and integrity, therefore:

## Illustration Cautions (10 Be's of Illustrating)

- A. Be Accurate
- B. Be Careful What You Reveal
- C. Be Careful What You Endorse
- D. Be Careful What You Describe
- E. Be Not The Hero
- F. Be Honest
- G. Be Real
- H. Be Complete
- I. Be Balanced
- J. Be Precise

## Illustration Lectures 5-Key Reminders

1. Illustration are told using the key terms (changed terms in parallel statements) of subpoint\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The process in which the key terms of the explanation's subpoint statements "drop down" into the illustrations and applications is called "\_\_\_\_\_."
3. Since an illustration is about "the last thing said prior to it," the key terms of a subpoint statement (or multiple sub-point statements, if they are being illustrated together) should be placed in a \_\_\_\_\_ statement immediately prior to the illustration.
4. The key terms of bullet-and answers-to analytical-question subpoints are found in the parallel subpoint \_\_\_\_\_; however, the key terms of interrogative subpoints are found in the parallel \_\_\_\_\_ to the interrogatives.
5. If there are no subpoints in a main point, then the key terms for "expositional rain" are found in the \_\_\_\_\_ clause of the main

point statement.

**Assignment for Next Class:**

Reading Assignments #15: *Christ-centered Preaching*, pp. 208-235.