

Preaching Christ in a Post-Modern World

Notes on Lecture 1

Introduction to the Christ-Centred Model of Preaching and an Introduction to Christ-Centred Exposition

By Tim Keller

To prepare a good sermon, the preacher should be asking:
What does this text tell me about the person and work of Jesus?

In preaching, the preacher should be asking the people:
How are we failing to rejoice in and live as if this text (about Christ) is true?

The preacher should be demonstrating that people are poor due to their lack of faith in Christ.

The aim of every sermon is to experience Christ through the text. You need to get people to adore and enjoy Christ through the text. We shouldn't preach principles or examples to live up to. Instead, we need to re-assure people that living a holy life is derived from faith in Christ.

In a lecture, the aim is to transfer information.
In a sermon, the aim is to be get the listener to worship on the spot.

Three types of questions to evaluate a sermon:

- 1) Was it a sound sermon? Was Jesus the climax of the text?
- 2) Was it practical? Was Jesus presented as the solution to spiritual problems?
- 3) Was there a sense of God? Was Jesus made visible or only talked about?

Three types of emphases in preaching:

- 1) Doctrinal Preaching
 - Too much expounding
 - Hits the intellect and not the heart.
 - Doesn't lead the hearers to worship.
- 2) Practical Preaching
 - Hits the will.
 - Doesn't challenge the mind.
 - It majors on application.
 - The sermon acts like a manual on how to live.
 - Little theology and passion
- 3) Devotional Preaching (Narrative Preaching)
 - Goes straight to the emotions.
 - Misses the mind
 - Lack of theology

The Christo-centric Model

A Christo-centric model shows Christ to be the centre of doctrine, practical living, and devotion. When you show that Christ is the centre of the sermon, the aim of the sermon becomes worship and not information- giving or life improvement.

Applying this Model to David and Goliath

Chuck Swindoll talks about the faith it takes to pull down giants in your life.

A better way is to say that David points to a greater ancestor.

For example, 'David is a federal head. David represents his people. The victory of David is the victory of the people. The people get credit for David's victory. Christ is a greater David dieing for our sin in our place. You get the victory and the righteousness from his work.

Why are you having problems? Because you haven't seen that Christ has won the victory for you. David is pointing to an attribute of Jesus. Your problem is that you're not living as if that attribute and victory is true.'

If you ever tell a particular Bible story without fitting it into the main Bible story (the message of Christ) you're losing the meaning. When a Bible story is not preached in the context of the main Biblical story line, the sermon only illustrates an example to live up to or a principle to obey.

Rather the sermon should promote an exhortation to live by faith in Christ.

Scripture is about Christ not us. Christ is David in the story; David does not represent us trying to conquer giants. The Bible is not a book about us.