



Agros: Find, Train, Support

6/10/23 Farm Team Gathering
“Shop Talk” Discussion Guide

***Preaching & Preachers* by Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

Discussion of Sermon Preparation (chp. 10-11, 15)

- “Well, obviously, the first thing you have to do is to deal with the meaning of your text. At this point there is one golden rule, one absolute demand—honesty. You have got to be honest with your text.” (212) What does it mean to be honest or dishonest with your text? What are some ways he recommends pursuing honesty with our text?
- “... If my sermon is not clear and ordered in my mind I cannot preach it to others. I suppose I could stand up and talk, but that would probably muddle people rather than help them. That is why I regard this ordering and shaping of the sermon as most important, and I advocate that you should struggle with this until you get it into shape.” (224) What tools does Lloyd-Jones recommend to order and shape your sermon? How can you account for the dangers/difficulties that accompany this ordering and shaping?
- “What are you going to do with this skeleton that you have prepared? There are two main possibilities open to you: Should this be written out in full, or should it not?” (226) How do you answer? Why?
- On repeating sermons, Lloyd-Jones argues, “If it were only an exposition, and stopped at that, I would be ready to grant that the case against repeating it is a good one. But if you accept the definition of a sermon as being a message and a burden, and as an entity, a complete message in itself, having a particular form and shape, well then I think there is a great deal to be said for repeating the same sermon in various places.” (300) Do you agree? Why/why not? What about repeating others’ sermons?

Discussion of Sermon Delivery (chp. 12-14)

- “Surely, by definition, preaching is speech addressed to people in a direct and personal manner. It is not something theoretical or an academic lecture; it implies a living contact... The great thing is freedom. I cannot over emphasize this. It is of the very essence of the act of preaching—this freedom in your own mind and spirit, this being free to the influences of the Spirit upon you.” (239, 241) Why is a personal and free manner a good priority? How can we work toward them? Do we have any other higher priorities in preaching?
- Lloyd-Jones cautions an over-emphasis on illustrations “... because we are not concerned just to influence people or to move them; our desire must be that the Truth should influence them and move them.” Why are we tempted to be content with merely moving people? What are some ways we can ensure that they are only moved by the Truth?
- Along with emphasizing illustrations too much in delivery, Lloyd-Jones also warns about eloquence, humor, medium, professionalism, intellectualism, polemics, and informality. Do you agree with these? Which one are you most tempted by and why?
- “The first is that it is wrong, surely, to put direct pressure on the will. Let me explain that. Man consists of mind, affections and will; and my contention is that you should not put direct pressure on the will. The will should always be approached primarily through the mind, the intellect, and then through the affections. The action of the will should be determined by those influences. My scriptural warrant for saying that is Paul’s epistle to the Romans chapter 6, verse 17...” (286) Why is this order important? How can music, lighting, and altar calls disregard this order? Can other techniques disregard this order?

Discussion of Unction in Preaching (chp. 16)

- Commenting on 1 Cor. 4:18-20, Lloyd-Jones writes, “There is no text, perhaps, of which we need to be reminded so much at the present time as just that. There is certainly no lack of words; but is there much evidence of power in our preaching? ‘The kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.’ ‘That,’ says the Apostle, ‘is the test’; and it is still the test of true preaching.” (328) What is this difference between talk/word and power? Are they at odds with one another?
- For Lloyd-Jones, unction “is beyond doubt the most important factor of all, in connection with preaching, to the end... This is what produces converts and creates Churches, and builds up churches—‘power’, ‘Holy Ghost’, and ‘much assurance’.” (322, 330) Do you consider unction to be this important? Why/why not?
- “How does one know it? It gives clarity of thought, clarity of speech, ease of utterance, a great sense of authority and confidence as you are preaching, and awareness of a power not your own thrilling through the whole of your being, and an indescribable sense of joy... what about the people? They sense it at once; they can tell the difference immediately. They are gripped, they become serious, they are convicted, they are moved, they are humbled. Some are convicted of sin, others are lifted up to the heavens, anything may happen to anyone of them.” (339, 340) Have you ever experienced these sensations as the preacher or the congregation? If so, did you attribute it to unction? Why/why not?
- Read the last paragraph of the book. Is this fully true of you? Should it be? If so, How can you pursue it more?

“Doctrine of the Church” by Jonathan Leeman

Lecture 1.6: The Keys and the Local Visible Church

How does Leeman get from the “keys of the kingdom” (Matt. 16:19) and binding/loosing (Matt. 18:15-20) to the importance of church membership around a membership covenant and statement of faith?

Lecture 1.7: What Is the Church’s Mission?

Leeman argues that there is an appropriately broad and narrow definition of the Church’s mission. How does he connect the broad mission of being a disciple to the kingly storyline of Scripture? Who and what should that apply to? How does he connect the narrow mission of making disciples to the priestly storyline of Scripture? Who and what should that apply to?

Lecture 1.8: Elders and Deacons

According to Leeman, what things are elders authorized to do and not authorized to do? How do these authorizations shape the character or manner of their ministry to the church?

Sermon Outlines

Sermon on Matthew 23:13-39

Proposition: We need to check our hearts and allegiances in order to humbly be taught and refined by the word of God.

1. The Woes to the Pharisees (v.13-32)
2. The Pronouncement of Judgment on the Pharisees (v.33-36)
3. The State of Israel now and in the Future (v.37-39)

Does this outline support the main thrust of this passage?

Could we sharpen the unity, purpose, or clarity of this outline?

Sermon on 1 John 2:28-3:10

Proposition: If we are the children of God, will remain in Christ and in righteousness until His return.

1. If we are the children of God, we will hope in Christ’s return (2:28-3:3)
2. If we are the children of God, we will practice Christ’s righteousness (3:4-7)
3. If we are the children of God, we will resist Christ’s enemy (3:8-10)

Does this outline support the main thrust of this passage?

Could we sharpen the unity, purpose, or clarity of this outline?

Co-laboring in Prayer