

PREACHING TIPS

WHAT IS A SERMON?

It is an excuse to talk about Jesus. It is an opportunity to define righteousness, to interpret the signs of the times, to clarify spiritual enigmas, to preach hope and to call sinners to Christ and saints to righteousness.

1. Preaching is truth poured out through personality and a sermon is the vehicle by which the truth is delivered.
2. Preaching is taking the meaning behind the text and explaining it to people. The preacher's job is to be an interpreter.
3. In exegesis you are trying to get back to the original meaning.
4. When we prepare to preach it is just not about preparing the sermon but also about preparing ourselves. Preaching is a spiritual enterprise that is bound to fail if the Holy Spirit is not involved.
5. In preaching if you are too confident or too nervous, you have not succeeded in removing yourself from the picture.
6. Over confidence means that you are thinking too much of yourself and your charisma and a complete lack of confidence mean that you have not put your confidence in God.
7. You cannot preach the Sabbath, 10 commandments and the sanctuary outside of the context of the gospel.
8. Our job as SDA preachers is to center SDA beliefs in Christ so that we are not just defining our belief system but presenting Christ.
9. The first priority of a preacher is not to preach a word that people like but a word that people need.
10. A preacher who tries to hide his or her personality will never be an effective preacher.
11. The ability to unearth implied truth is a crucial part of effective preaching, especially if one engages in narrative preaching.
12. Anyone who plans to become a preacher must read and study because preaching must come from your overflow

13. A good sermon is a sermon that has met its objective.
14. In preaching there is the preacher's ethos, pathos and logos. Pathos has to do with the emotions and feelings, while logos is about logic and reasoning and ethos has to do with integrity and credibility.
15. Without ethos the preacher is not going to be effective.
16. One of the ways to get people to respond positively is your understanding of the active and passive audience.
17. Get your audience involvement as you preached. Eg. "Touch your name and say, "I think that preacher is making a lot of sense."
18. There is no short cut to great preaching> It does not come about by accident. It requires hard work!
19. How do you prepare a sermon? Have an experience and then tell it!
20. A sermon is ready to be preached when it is in your head as a story. The Bible is a book of stories.
21. A sermon is ready to be preached when it can be condensed into one sentence. The sentence will contain the subject and the predicate; what I am saying about the subject.
22. Because preachers are flawed vessels we do have bad days. How do you deal with the bad days? Disconnect from the preaching moment as quickly as possible.
23. It is important to memorize the first three or four sentences of your introduction. This allows you to start fluently connecting with your audience.
24. It is totally natural to be nervous. Find some place private and wave your hands in the air. Shake your hands to shake out the tension.
25. The preacher must connect with his/her audience emotionally and intellectually.
 - a. Begin the sermon by focusing on one person for the opening sentence.
 - b. During the sermon make sure your eye contact is at least three seconds per person depending on the size of the congregation.

- c. If you are speaking to a large congregation, then look in certain directions for three to five seconds and people will think that you are looking at them.
 - d. Tell a story that is populated with flesh and blood characters that the congregation can relate to.
 - e. The ingredients of a good story are interesting characters, sparking dialogue and a dramatic lesson learned.
 - f. The dramatic lesson learnt or the application is the point of the story.
 - g. Any story will be pointless if it is not tied it with the objective of your sermon and provide a lesson learned
26. Body language is an essential part of your message and can help enhance the words you use to create pictures in the minds of your audience
- a. Move on purpose
 - b. Avoid repetitive use of the same movements or gestures
 - c. When you are making that key point stand still and deliver
 - d. After making a point or delivering a punch line, accentuate it by standing still and shifting only your eyes.
 - e. Movement rehearsal is essential to ensure your gestures are relevant.
27. One of the most exciting elements in presenting your sermon is the art of not using your voice.
28. Pausing at exactly the right moment in your sermon is often more effective than anything you could do with your voice or body movements.
29. Knowing your material very well may cause you to talk too fast. Your audience may be hearing the information for the very first time, so it is important to slow down and give them the opportunity to catch every word.
30. Use short, simple declarative sentences and cut out useless words.
31. When you feel that you are responsible for how people will respond, you are taking on a responsibility that is not yours.
32. Do not be afraid to give an invitation

33. Preaching that turns the world upside down doesn't inevitably lead to success as people count success. There may be baptisms in one setting and beatings in another.
34. People are not saved by logic; people are not saved by exciting stimulating, intellectually impressive ideas; people are saved by faith, and faith is not an idea. Faith is resident in intuition and not resident in cognition.
35. If faith were resident in cognition, the smartest people would have been the most likely to be saved.
36. Preaching needs to be sufficiently clear, so that a person with minimal understanding or even a child gets something from the preaching.
37. Effective preachers need to be attentive to the music of speech as well as the content of speech.

THE USE OF IMAGINATION IN PREACHING

Three kinds of imagination:

1. CONVENTIONAL
2. EMPATHEIC
3. VISIONARY

CONVENTIONAL

Imagination that is inherited by listening to other preachers and from being part of a particular church tradition

EMPATHEIC

To imagine oneself in someone else's shoe. You know your own experience and you are willing to ask for the experience of your audience.

VISIONARY

To see and respond to the new things that God is doing in the world.