Tell a Story, Solve a Mystery, Cast a Vision, or Argue a Case: An Overview of Expository Preaching Structures

The Integrative Model of Preaching of Kenton C. Anderson

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Resources for this workshop compiled from:

- ______. “Fresh Directions In Biblical Preaching.” Class Notes from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL, July 2011.

Who is Kent Anderson?

- Ph.D, Professor of Homiletics at the Associated Canadian Theological Schools, Trinity Western University.
  - President of Northwest Baptist Seminary
  - Past president of the Evangelical Homiletics Society
  - Operates www.preaching.org

Introduction:

- 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- The servant of Christ must be consumed with the charge to communicate God’s Word.

What is preaching?

Definition: Preaching is helping people hear from God. (Kenton Anderson)

Expository Preaching: a method of preaching which

- unfolds the original meaning of a biblical passage(s),
- integrates it with the unified message of Scripture, and
- makes appropriate application to its contemporary hearers.

Classic Definition:

"Expository preaching is the communication of a biblical concept, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, and literary study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit first applies to the personality and experience of the preacher, then through him to his hearers."

- Haddon Robinson (Biblical Preaching, p. 20):
Application Concerns

The Impossibility of Application in Preaching

1. The dis-integration of exposition and relevance:
2. The dis-integration of the head and heart

Careful application:

- Chapter 4 “Avoiding Applicational Heresy” in Applying the Sermon by Daniel Overdorf.
- Be careful not to:
  - Spiritualize: making physical realities in a text unwarranted applications
  - Moralize: every text becomes a list of imperatives
- See also “The Heresy of Application” interview with Haddon Robinson

Integrative concerns

- Objective & subjective
- Head & heart
- Word & flesh

Understand the text

1. Discovering “the message” (God speaking)
2. How will you discern the message:
   - Kenton Anderson:
     Deduction ...
     I will "begin with the Bible" because God is sovereign and we have to submit to what he has to say
     Induction ...
     I will "begin with the listener," believing that God speaks to the issues and needs of people today.
   - Adjustment:
     This is a problem in the process of deduction/induction
     Inductive and deductive are more homiletic structures
3. Infuse with prayer
4. Determine the theme

Homiletic Map

What will the focus of the sermon be?

- Induction or Deduction
- Cognition ... I will focus on the ideas in Scripture, offering a logical and rational appeal to the intellect of the listener.
- Affection ... I will focus on the images of the sermon, aiming for a more emotive, affective impact so as to motivate listeners to obedience to God.
Learning Styles by David Kolb

Four Structures
- Declarative: appeals to cognition/thinking
- Pragmatic: appeals to thinking and doing
- Visionary: appeals to watching and feeling/affection
- Narrative: appeals to feeling and doing

Declarative Sermon Structure: The Lawyer: Argue a Case
Elements of a Declarative Sermon:

**Sound Arguments**

**Poor Argument**
- Even if the premises are true, the conclusion is false.

**Strong Argument**
- If the premises are true, then the conclusion is very likely to be true.

**Sound Argument**
- If the premises are true, the conclusion must be true.

**Clear Structure:**
- Choose a Text
- Discover the big idea
- Determine your point structure
- Explain your points
- Illustrate your points
- Apply your points
- Develop an introduction
- Create your conclusion
- Title your sermon
- Prepare your notes

**Example: John MacArthur**

“The Man of God” from 1 Timothy 6:11-14

The man of God can be recognized by
- What he flees from (v11a)
- What he follows after (v11b)
- What he fights for (v12), and
- Whom he is faithful to (vv13-14)

**Pragmatic Sermon Structure:** The Detective: Solve a Mystery
The pragmatic sermon is about life application.

Pragmatic sermons are often how questions.
- How to find true joy in life.
- How to deal with life being contrary to expectation.

Steps in Pragmatic Preparation:
1. Raise the listener's question
2. List all of the possibilities
3. Eliminate the illogical
4. Gather all of Scripture's wisdom
5. Answer the listener's question
6. Apply the insights gained

Example: Rick Warren

First in the Purpose Driven Series…
“What On Earth Am I Here For?”
Followed by three supporting questions…
- Why am I alive?
- Does my life matter?
- What is my purpose?

Narrative Sermon Structure: The Novelist: Tell a Story

This is a sermon that is in the form of a story.
- There is a sermon preached in large story “chunks” that allow the listener to join in the experience of the sermon being preached.
- It is highly ‘affective’ in its use of imagery and dramatization of truth that is communicated.
Different Levels of the Story in the Sermon

- **Their Story**
  The experience of the original characters and recipients of the biblical text.
- **Our Story**
  The human experience that we and our listeners bring to the sermon.
- **His Story**
  The grand story of God's redemptive work with people over time.

Steps in the narrative sermon

1. Involve the listener
2. Create a crisis
3. Resolve the tension
4. Realize the hope

Challenge: making sure truth is clearly proclaimed.
Concern: not being too “open ended” in our approach

Example: Eugene Lowry

“Swept Upstream” from Mark 14:1-10

The narrative of Mary’s breaking the jar of perfume and pouring it over Jesus’ feet.

The sermon begins with a re-telling of the story

- Events at the dinner party
  - Guests are aware of Jesus’ impending execution
    - “the woman bursts in”
    - ‘wastes’ the resources

The sermon moves to some questions

- Why didn’t Jesus understand the logic of their objection?
- Why did they understand the nature of her gesture?
- Why didn’t he see the waste?
- Why didn’t they see the grace?

Sermon climaxes with resolution

- This was no time for depression
- This was a time to celebrate the gracious work of Jesus
- Woman was “swept upstream with gratitude”
- The listener now understands her joy and responds (ideally) with this same joy

The Lowry Loop: the model he applies to any text, not just narratives (pp 204-05)

- Oops: upsetting the equilibrium
- Ugh: analyzing the discrepancy
- Aha: disclosing the clue to resolution
- Whee: experiencing the gospel
- Yeah: anticipating the consequences
**Visionary Sermon Structure:** The Artist: Cast a Vision

Preaching as an art form

**Deductive:** it delivers the artist’s vision as a finished product.  
**Affective:** it uses imagery necessary to use emotional intelligence.

- **Ground and Figure**  
  The subject set against its context.

- **Line and Shape**  
  Indicate the artist's level of candor.

- **Color and Light**  
  Control the emotional temper of the viewer.

*How to structure the vision sermon*

1. Determine the vision—select the subject  
2. Articulate the vision—compose the scene

**Often motivational:**

**Example: Rob Bell**  
“Easter Stories,” Matthew 28

Sermon preached on Resurrection Sunday

- Begins by working through the opening verses of Matthew 28  
- Develops the power of the Christian message of conquering death  
- Uses the old phrase: “He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!”  
- Offered hope in the truth and in an easy to recall phrase

The sermon developed to give listeners the sense of “hope beyond all this”

- Sermon developed by having others come on stage to share their “Easter Stories”  
- The challenge from Bell was to create “a resurrection community”
**Integrative Sermon Structure:** Sing a Song

The goal:
- involve all four primary expository structures to appeal to all learning types
- to speak to all types of people at the same time
- integrates various parts like that of performing music

How to prepare an integrative sermon:

**Understand the Composition**
- The composer's intention.

**Embrace the Performance**
- The singer's expression.

**Believe the Words**
- The rational content.

**Feel the Music**
- The emotional appeal.

**Integrative Model Construction**
The logical argument: What is the point?
  - the “big idea” which emphasizes clarity, context, argumentation
  - at the intersection of the head and text

The underlying mystery: What is the problem?
  - the detective who emphasizes expression, appreciation, resolve
  - theological confusion, malfunction

The human story: What is the experience?
  - the moviemaker who uses the inductive method
  - at the intersection of the heart and today

The motivating vision: What is the difference?
  - the “artist” giving a preferred vision of the future
  - at the intersection of the heart and text

Integrative Sermon Presentation/Delivery

1. Engagement
   a. Respects the listener
   b. A relevant question (detective), a compelling story (moviemaker)
   c. At the intersection of problem and story

2. Information
   a. Deepens in knowledge
   b. A big idea (lawyer), a relevant question (detective)
   c. At the intersection of problem and point

3. Exposition
   a. Present to God
   b. A big idea (lawyer), motivating vision (artist)
   c. At the intersection of point an difference

4. Inspiration
   a. Results in change
   b. A motivating vision (artist), a compelling story (moviemaker)
   c. At the intersection of difference and story

Examples of Integrative Sermons

Go on a journey for the sermon

Tear down the borders sermon: