

SESSION 5

Evangelistic Preaching (to non-church-going unbelievers) Workshop

- What are some of the challenges to evangelistic preaching in our context?
- What are some of the trends in evangelistic preaching in our context?
 - Pragmatism – focus on present felt problem
 - Repentance and holiness – focus on sin rather than wrath, little on person of Jesus
 - God-shaped gap – light on seriousness of sin, might not feel it
 - Surrender control – light on grace or atonement
 - Decide for Christ – already under wrath, not a choice from a neutral position

What does evangelistic mean? Gospel

1 Cor. 15:1-11

- What is the content of the gospel? Historical versus transformational¹
- When and who is the gospel for?

So gospel every time (cf. also Galatians 3; Eph. 3:8; Col. 1:28; Acts 20)

So we are talking now about a particular *sort* of gospel: preaching to non-church-going unbelievers

Still very **careful**

Expository (Acts 8:26-40)

1. Scripture driven (v35 cf. Acts 2; 17:1-3; 28:23) – doesn't all go out the window when evangelism – still important to be careful with the Scriptures, context, get the big idea, see what the natural application is.
2. Good news about Jesus – about Jesus – and it's the gospel. Here – Isaiah 53 – we want the focus to be on the Cross of Christ. **John 12:32**

Q: What Scriptures would you chose?

Practical point – Jesus, Cross, not so much background needed, stories not complex arguments, but all Scripture is for making wise for salvation in Christ Jesus

Very very **Christ-centred**

Wooing (John 3:25-30)

People are going away from John – he is really happy about that – he is happy when people leave his church... as long as they go down the road to Jesus.

1. Points away from self to Jesus – v26 (cf. 1:7-8,15,29) – v30_____
2. Driven by joy – v29 – loves hear the bridegroom's voice + his joy goes even higher when other people go to the bridegroom

¹ Evangelistic preaching must include the historical gospel. Telling me about transformation in your life or miracles is not the gospel. Telling me to be born again is not the gospel. Telling me to commit my life to Christ is not the gospel. It is the 2000-year old Christ-event.

3. Put that together – he is the friend of the bridegroom introducing the bride to the bridegroom. Richard Sibbes – “woo for Christ, and open the riches, beauty, honour, and all that is lovely in him.”

We want evangelistic preaching that is full of Jesus. Altar call at end when no mention of Christ – what Christ am I accepting? What content about Christ – not just bland statements – he’s wonderful, he’s faithful – tell me what he’s done, what he’s said, tell me stories about him.

- **Very clear**
 - Get it very simple – takes a lot of study – don’t need oratory
 - Work hard on the packaging – introductions
 - Don’t assume anything, Fill in gaps, no jargon
- Get it very **cutting**
 - Urgency – Richard Baxter – preach as a dying man to dying men
 - Give a next step, or range of next steps – use the language of the passage (e.g. confess over head of the lamb) – and link up with follow up
 - Pray, Pray, Pray – cannot respond without the Lord
- Avoid notes but don’t avoid the Bible. Very easy to get carried away, wander off from the big idea of the passage and from Jesus and start making wild unbiblical promises.

Group work

Read: Isaiah 6:1-8

- What in my teaching points and application could be misunderstood?
- How could I illustrate each of the main points?
- How could I introduce the message in a helpful way?
- How could I draw it all together and drive the message home?

What is our aim?

- Numbers?
- Popularity?
- Luther: “Preach so that if the people don’t hate their sin they will hate you.” Offensive message. Be as winsome as possible – present Christ as the awesomely attractive bridegroom that he is – but in exalting him you must humble man and that will be offensive.