

Preaching Lab II

2PT524 – Summer 2008

Instructor: The Rev. Jon Davis (jon@incarnationviedo.com or 321-436-8006)

Class meeting: Thursday, June 26 and Friday, June 27, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Course Description.

[There is no published course description. This course provides preaching experiences in a learning community.]

Course Objectives.

Knowing

- ◆ Understand the various components of a sermon and their purposes.
- ◆ Understand the concept of “purpose” in a sermon.
- ◆ Be introduced to the concept of redemptive preaching.
- ◆ Understand the distinctions among varieties of public prayer.

Being

- ◆ Increased confidence in preaching through shared classroom experiences.
- ◆ Deepened desire to pray and to lead others in prayer.

Doing

- ◆ Increased clarity and ease in speaking before others.
- ◆ Increased competence in developing and preaching redemptive, exegetically-faithful sermons.
- ◆ Increased competence in leading in prayer.

Course requirements

Please complete and submit the student survey on page 5 of this syllabus prior to the start of class.

Classroom sermon	25%
Course reflection paper	25
Classroom exercises	25
Class participation	10
Prayer project or Sermon Project	15

Classroom sermon.

You are to bring a completed transcript/manuscript of a sermon to preach in class. Because the course is so brief and compact, we won't have the usual time between classes for you to integrate classroom insight into your sermon. Nevertheless, do the best you can at preparing a sermon which reflects the following attributes.

- Expository – based upon a particular passage of scripture, developing that passage's original meaning for the sake of contemporary application, where all main points are drawn from the passage.
- Purposeful – having a unified and coherent message.
- Application-rich – not simply informing your listeners of facts and not simply describing the world of the text, but making legitimate application to the contemporary listener in a way called for by the original meaning of the passage.
- Redemptive – application which is a consequence of the reality of Christ's person and work which, by God's grace, motivates and empowers the response. One way to test this is to ask the question "If Christ had not brought the kingdom of God by dying and rising, would it affect my sermon"

You will not be required to read your transcript/manuscript, although you may if you wish. My recommendation is that, after developing the transcript/manuscript, you reduce the sermon back down to abbreviated notes from which you can preach.

Your sermon should be 20-25 minutes, including the reading of your scripture text. Because of the cumulative effect of time issues, you will be stopped at 25 minutes if you are not finished. Therefore it is well worth "practice preaching" the sermon ahead of time to make sure it is within the time parameters.

You must inform me of your scripture passage by Wednesday, June 18.

Course reflection paper.

By July 25, you are to submit a paper of 5-8 pages which does the following:

- ◆ Reflects upon your own strengths and weaknesses in preaching, including how you perceived them before and after the course.
- ◆ Describes lessons learned during the class that were particularly helpful to you.
- ◆ Outlines areas related to preaching where you feel you need additional growth more so than other areas.
- ◆ Articulates your own philosophy of preaching, including in relation to the assigned reading of Stott's *Preacher Portrait*.

Classroom exercises.

During class you will do a number of communication exercises, some of which will be provided for you and some of which you will need to prepare beforehand. You should bring with you 1) a sermon illustration (including a clear sense of your point to be made) and 2) a personally significant story to share about an experience or event which was humorous, life-changing, autobiographical, etc. Both the sermon and personal story should be typed out, but will be shared by you orally. Please bring one copy for me.

Class participation.

A preaching lab is a superior learning environment because it draws upon group insights. In order to maximize the benefit of this format, it is important for all students to participate with observations, questions and discussion. Full credit must be actively earned (without dominating discussion).

Prayer project.

There is a precipitous decline in prayer taking place in public worship. The decline takes the form of 1) less and less prayer in public worship and/or 2) prayer lacking clear purpose, sometimes serving more as transitional elements than as vital components of worship. In public prayer, the congregation – either collectively or led by one trained in handling the Word of God – engages in sacred labor.

The finished assignment is to have a selected prayer for the following: invocation; confession; supplication; illumination and intercession. Finally, you are to include a prayer which you write based upon a psalm of your choosing. State which psalm when titling this prayer (e.g. “A Prayer Based upon Psalm 8”).

Students will benefit from and find useful for this assignment the following works:

Henry, Matthew. *Method for Prayer*.

This well-known pastoral commentator has provided an exhaustive catalog of the prayers of scripture arranged according to his “method.” There is a Christian Focus edition, though the superior edition is that published by Reformed Academic Press with foreword by Ligon Duncan.

Miller, Samuel. *Thoughts on Public Prayer*.

The Book of Common Prayer 1979

This prayer project is due on July 25.

OR

Sermon Project

Outline Five Classic Sermons: Choose five sermons from church history (i.e. Edwards / Whitfield / Spurgeon / Elizabethan Homilies / Billy Graham / you can do one from one of the sermons in Acts)

Give attention to points / shifts in thought / scripture use / illustrations etc. at the end of the outline answer the following question for each sermon... *How do these sermons compare with typical sermons today?*

This sermon project is due on July 25.

READING

Because of the time constraint of this course there is no required reading – I will provide a Bibliography for students on essential preaching resources.

Preaching Lab II – Student Survey

To be completed and turned in on the first day of class.

Name.....

I have preached in an actual church worship service approximately ____ times.

Up to this point in time, I have taught or spoken publicly (counting all opportunities) (check one)

- quite a bit
- several times
- a limited number of times.

At this point in time, Lord willing,

- I have a strong sense of call to a preaching/teaching ministry.
- I expect to preach and teach as a supplemental aspect of what I expect I will be doing after I graduate.
- I will use my time in seminary to discern better what role public ministry may have in my future.

For me individually, the hardest part of preaching is.....

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One subject I would like us to discuss some time in class is.....

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