



USING HERMENEUTICS & HOMILETICS

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

- Hermeneutics:
- Homiletics:

The Difference Matters:

Hermeneutics by definition is “the science of interpretation.” From the Greek word “hermeneuo” meaning “to interpret” or “to translate,” hermeneutics defines the principles by which we understand a text or even the spoken word. Biblical hermeneutics has some additional rules added as the text is the sacred Word of God.

Homiletics is also from the Greek, from the word “homiletikos” which means “conversation” and has the sense of a discourse on a moral theme. Homiletics is the application of the general principles of rhetoric to the specific department of public speaking. As Christian preaching is based on God's Word, historically preaching has been thought of as sacred rhetoric.

Thus, hermeneutics supplies the understanding for the sermon, whereas homiletics is the actual preaching of the sermon. This distinction ties into the point Lloyd-Jones was making in the quote above. To help my students understand this distinction, I give them analogies like the following.

(From: <https://gentlereformation.com/2021/04/26/visible-preaching>)

Martyn Lloyd-Jones in *Preaching and Preachers* “There are men who think they are preaching the Gospel when actually in fact they are simply saying things about the Gospel.”

Here I believe that we have to draw a distinction between two elements in preaching. There is first of all the sermon or the message – the content of that which is being delivered. But secondly, there is the act of preaching, the delivery if you like, or what is commonly called ‘preaching.’ It is a great pity that this word ‘preaching’ is not confined to this second aspect which we may describe as the art of delivering the message.

HERMENEUTICS

Is there one way to interpret the Bible?

1. Allegorical
 - a. There is a greater meaning than the original authorial intent
2. Literal, Grammatical, Historical
 - a. The meaning of the text is derived by looking at the text assuming it to be literal, within the grammatical structure, as it unfolds through history



3. Redemptive, Historical

- a. This too is a literal understanding of the text, understanding that all of scripture is one book presented as on story of redemption unfolding through history

Why does this matter? Your method will lead to your conclusion and application.

REDEMPTIVE HISTORICAL METHOD

1) Redemptive

2) Historical

KEY: Theology drives our hermeneutics

Example: Trinity

Theology Matters!

Examples:

1) John (Gospel)

2) James (Epistle)

3) Ezekiel (Narrative/Prophetic)



HOMILETICS

The Point: Effectively communicating the gospel.

Does it matter what method you use?

Group Project: **Let's build a sermon together!**

Examples:

Expository Sermon Outline Example (From Christ-Centered Preaching, Chappell, appendix 13 (p. 389))

- Announce text
- Scripture introduction
- Reannounce and read text
- Prayer for illumination
- Introduction
- Proposition
- Scripture bond
- Proposition
- Main point 1
 - Explanation
 - Illustration
 - Application
- Main Point 2
 - Explanation
 - Illustration
 - Application
- Main Point 3
 - Explanation
 - Illustration
 - Application
- Conclusion

Explanation: Propositional Statement

"A proposition is a theme statement covering the content of all the main points and including the introduction as well as an indication of what the rest of the message will be about."

(<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/learn/institute/pr600-preaching/pr600-06-propositions-and-main-points>)

THE GOAL: Bring the listener with you on your journey so they arrive at the same destination



MY SERMON Process

Hermeneutic:

KEY: My audience is always sitting across the desk

1. What is the main point?
2. How is it connected to the main story – Jesus?
3. What truth am I going to be presenting?
4. What complications will I face in:
 - a. Accepting the truth
 - b. Understanding the truth
 - c. Communicating the truth culturally
5. What illustrations can I use?

Homiletic:

KEY: Don't get up until you are convicted, convinced, and excited
(The aha moment)

1. Introduction
 - a. Allow people to get used to my voice and settle in
 - b. People are not yet ready to hear what I have to say
2. Hook
 - a. Why should they want to hear what I have to say
 - b. Leave them wanting to know the answer/solution
3. Propositional statement
 - a. Here is how we are going to find the solution/answer
4. Transitional statements
 - a. You will use these throughout the sermon. They work as
 - i. Breaks in the flow
 - ii. A clear point of direction (in case someone gets lost)
 - iii. Refresh of previous point and proposition (bring people back to the reason for the sermon)
5. How do I want to walk people up to Jesus?
 - a. Build a castle in the dark
 - b. Give them a piece of the puzzle
 - c. Create a parallel
 - d. Create my case
6. Persuasion / Application
 - a. Plead for belief
 - b. A Call to action
 - c. A reminder of comfort



Divine Watchmen: Ezekiel 33

Provide background

Whenever we feel that we might be reading a hard and potentially harsh Scripture section, we then see God's mercy come into the story. Our human hearts have a hard time comprehending the holiness of God, and when it is violated, God is rightly angry. But he is also merciful.

There are two types of people God is addressing in this section:

- 1) The Self-Righteous
- 2) The Wicked

Transitional Statement: Do you think this was just an issue with Israel or does the church face the same situation today?

The solution to the problem:

Here are 4 biblical requirements of elders:

- 1) To nourish
- 2) To equip
- 3) To watch
- 4) To protect

Appeal / Application

Trusting Christ's means because we are weak and wandering people.

Reform or Revival: John 4

Creating the problem: The question everyone here has probably wrestled with along with the media is, is this real?

Propositional statement: We will see that the Bible gives us two clear answers to this question that should help guide all believers when considering if something should be accepted or rejected.

Solution to the problem: I think every Christian should ask this simple question when it comes to approaching God:

"What kind of worship does God expect?"

- 1) In Spirit and Truth
- 2) Using Discernment

Connecting to modern context:



Leadership Development 2023

As I have been watching Christian culture for over 20 years, I have seen two common factors when using discernment.

- 1) Pragmatism
- 2) Emotionalism

You're not crazy:

Nowhere in the Bible are we ever called to chase down the localized presence of Jesus. Jesus localized himself in history two thousand years ago, and we are still talking about its power today.

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Give them hope:

I love what Peter says to the Christians who is suffering. He gave them a deep sense of encouragement based upon the gospel they had received, not some experience they should expect:

I Did It My Way: Ezekiel 8-11

Hook:

If you want to know how offensive this feels to God, imagine bringing someone other than you spouse into your home and living with them as if you were married, right in front of your spouse and acting as if it should be normal.

Transitional Statement: I'm sure many of us feel this way about our world now. It feels as if it is running further and further away from our God.

Propositional Statement: The point of Ruth is that God is working to protect his family, and ultimately, Jesus becomes our Kinsmen redeemer, the one who will pay for our debts and take us to be his bride the church to love and protect us.

A powerful story of Ruth and Boaz then compared to Christ.

What is acceptable worship? Psalm 63:1-4

Hook: What comes to mind when most people think about the word is music.

If I said, "come back tonight and we are going to have a worship service" many of you would assume I meant a night of singing songs and possibly prayer.

Transitional statement: For the rest of our time this morning, as preparation for our grace groups, I want to talk about what the Bible considers to be acceptable worship so that when we learn how to worship, we are better prepared.



Propositional statement: We are going to look at three pillars of worship. These three pillars will help us uphold the reverence and awe of God as Hebrews describes or how David describes in his Psalm 63:3

1. Faith
2. Love
3. Action

Transition: Ok, this sounds good, but what does this look like from day to day?

1. Renewing our minds by his means of grace
2. Renewing each other

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT CLASS:

- 1) Select a passage to preach
- 2) Provide a simple explanation of the meaning of the text
- 3) Provide a simple outline of the text
- 4) Draft a simple sermon outline
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Hook
 - c. Proposition Statement
 - d. Outline with example/illustration
 - e. Application
 - f. Closing

OTHER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:

Preaching Christ in All of Scripture

by [Edmund P. Clowney](#) (Author)

The Unfolding Mystery, Second Edition: Discovering Christ in the Old Testament

by [Edmund P. Clowney](#) (Author)

The Christ Key: Unlocking the Centrality of Christ in the Old Testament

by [Chad Bird](#) (Author)