



John Goetsch | Tuesday, June 14, 2016

## **Title:** Starting the Sermon

### **Introduction:** \_\_\_\_\_

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How are we going to get from reading our text to points one, two, three, etc.? The greatest sermon in the world will be a flop if the \_\_\_\_\_ for preaching is not properly and effectively laid. If no one is \_\_\_\_\_, what good is our homiletic outline?

The introduction to the message is \_\_\_\_\_ for two reasons: first, it must capture the \_\_\_\_\_ of the audience. We must engage their \_\_\_\_\_ and give them a reason to listen. They must sense from the very start that this is going to \_\_\_\_\_; I \_\_\_\_\_ this!

Second, the introduction must lay the groundwork for what is ahead. It is a foundation for what is going to be built later. It must establish the purpose and reason for the message so that the audience can be prepared to respond.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the introduction will vary with the material of the message and to some degree with the length of the entire message. There can be a danger in being too \_\_\_\_\_ and thus taking away from the main body of the sermon, or being too \_\_\_\_\_ and thus not allowing the listener enough time to focus his mind on the subject matter. Some messages will need more of an introduction because of the \_\_\_\_\_ material that is necessary to set the stage for the message. Other messages can be introduced in a few simple statements and an illustration. Let's look at the three basic parts to a solid and effective introduction or \_\_\_\_\_ to the sermon.

## **1. The** \_\_\_\_\_

A. Determining the \_\_\_\_\_ of the text

- 1 The subject should come from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the passage of Scripture you have selected as a text.
- 2 This is the \_\_\_\_\_ subject upon which you are going to build the message.
- 3 Sometimes a repeated word or phrase is helpful in determining the subject matter.
- 4 The subject of the passage can be determined by finding the \_\_\_\_\_ idea of the text.
- 5 This central idea may be:
  - a A \_\_\_\_\_ to proclaim
  - b A \_\_\_\_\_ to perform
  - c A \_\_\_\_\_ to live
  - d A \_\_\_\_\_ to solve
  - e A \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue
- 6 The \_\_\_\_\_ of the text becomes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message.
- 7 Subjects for sermons are often one \_\_\_\_\_ or a short \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Be careful not to make the subject too broad in scope that the message misses the \_\_\_\_\_ emphasis of the passage.

## B. Surveying the subject

- 1 We must now gather some \_\_\_\_\_ on the subject that we have determined.
- 2 The following are good questions to ask when gathering information to guide you:
  - a What have I \_\_\_\_\_ on this subject?
  - b What have I \_\_\_\_\_ in my experience which may throw light on the subject?
  - c What does the Bible say in other \_\_\_\_\_ on the subject?
  - d Do I have any personal \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ on this subject?
  - e Does the \_\_\_\_\_ to whom I will be preaching have any bias or attitude on this subject?

- f Are there any famous quotations, poems, or illustrations I can immediately recall on this subject?
- g Is the subject current or \_\_\_\_\_ to a present situation?

C. Formulating the \_\_\_\_\_ statement

- 1 The first part of our introduction is what we will refer to as the declaration.
- 2 The declaration states the \_\_\_\_\_ matter.
- 3 The declaration helps to establish the \_\_\_\_\_ of the sermon.
- 4 The declaration defines the subject matter down to a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Add blocked grey box here with example
- 5 This declaration sentence is the basis for the message and lets the listener know \_\_\_\_\_ the message is headed.
- 6 This statement should always be declarative or exclamatory in nature.
- 7 Keep it as \_\_\_\_\_ as possible.

2. Constructing the \_\_\_\_\_

A. The proposition is the \_\_\_\_\_ to the introduction.

- 1 In reality, this is where the application of the message \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 This is what you will be asking your audience to \_\_\_\_\_ to during the invitation.

B. It is called different names in different books on preaching.

- 1 Some call it the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Some call it the \_\_\_\_\_ statement.
- 3 Some call it the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 We will refer to it as the \_\_\_\_\_.

- C. The proposition is the driving \_\_\_\_\_ in the message.
- 1 It will keep you as the preacher on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 It will keep your audience \_\_\_\_\_ on the subject matter.
- D. The proposition helps to tie the biblical truth with the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1 Good preaching is always in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense.
  - 2 It must speak to the concerns of the day in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the present.
  - 3 It must be true to the impact of the \_\_\_\_\_ and at the same time be relevant to human experiences.
- E. In the message, the proposition should be referred to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1 Jay Adams, in *Purposeful Preaching*, calls this the “purpose” and suggests that preachers write that purpose on the top of each page of their notes so as not to lose sight of \_\_\_\_\_ they are preaching the message.
  - 2 Repetition of the same sentence throughout the sermon can become monotonous. Varying its form can be helpful. For example:
    - a Prayer brings many benefits to our lives.
    - b What are the benefits of prayer that you are experiencing?
    - c Are you seeking the benefits of daily prayer?
- F. Personally, I like to use a \_\_\_\_\_ form for the proposition.
- 1 Questions are \_\_\_\_\_. (The earlier the conviction begins in a sermon, the more time the Holy Spirit has to use that conviction to bring about a decision.)
  - 2 The question that you present here in the introduction can then be answered in the points of your message.

**EXAMPLE:**

- 1) Are you experiencing any benefits to prayer?
- 2) Have you discovered the benefits to prayer?
- 3) What benefits have you received lately from prayer?

### 3. Establishing a \_\_\_\_\_

A. We are now ready to form a \_\_\_\_\_ that will take us from our introduction to the body of the sermon.

B. The body of the sermon is going to answer some \_\_\_\_\_ from the subject matter.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ can I receive benefits from prayer?
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ should I desire benefits from prayer?
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ should I expect benefits from prayer?
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ are the benefits of prayer?

C. The transitional sentence must have

a \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1 This key word provides a logical answer to the questions just asked.

**EXAMPLE:** Today, from our text, we will see three important STEPS to obtaining benefits from prayer.

- 2 Additional \_\_\_\_\_ can be put with this key word in order to place \_\_\_\_\_ on it.

D. Examples of key words

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ set forth
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ to be derived
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ to be received
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ given
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ to be avoided

- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ produced
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ to be received
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ to be provided
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ to be bestowed
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ given
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ to be made
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_ offered
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ set forth
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ at stake
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ to be realized
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ to be rendered
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ that can be learned
- 18 \_\_\_\_\_ sustained
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_ manifested
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ placed upon us
- 21 \_\_\_\_\_ given
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ inflicted
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ made
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_ offered
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ to be gained
- 26 \_\_\_\_\_ set forth
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ to be obtained
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ promised
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ to be gained
- 30 \_\_\_\_\_ to be realized

Blunders, dangers, excesses, extremes, mistakes, instructions, guidelines, patterns, plans, practices, prescriptions, rules, steps, stipulations, admonitions, commands, laws, fears, precautions, sayings, preparations, provisions, details, directives, injunctions, teachings, barriers, fundamentals, lessons, obstacles, powers, means, alternatives, systems. . . . The list is endless.

31 NEVER USE THE WORD \_\_\_\_\_

! There is always a more descriptive word to use for your key word.

## 4. Putting It All Together

**EXAMPLE:** Let's suppose that you have selected James 1:5-7 as your text. You might scratch out the following as you begin your sermon preparation:

**TEXT:** James 1:5-7

**SUBJECT:** Prayer

**PROPOSITION:** The benefits of prayer

**TRANSITIONAL SENTENCE:** Basic steps to seeing these benefits in our lives.

Let's \_\_\_\_\_ it into an introduction:

**TEXT:** James 1:5-7

**DECLARATION:** Prayer is a powerful tool that God has given to each of us as a Christian.

**PROPOSITION:** Are you experiencing the benefits from prayer in your daily life?

**TRANSITIONAL SENTENCE:** Notice with me from James 1 three important steps that we need to take in order to reap the benefits from prayer.

**Conclusion:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In the section above, you have the basic \_\_\_\_\_ of your introduction. Granted, you may have an illustration somewhere in there, some additional Scripture emphasizing the subject matter, a quotation, etc., but you have now determined exactly where you are going in your sermon. Quite frankly, the rest is a \_\_\_\_\_ !



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