

PR 602—SPRING 2012  
**PREACHING FOR MODERN LISTENERS**

Professor Patricia Batten

Fridays, 6:00-9:30

Saturdays, 8:30-4:00

February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

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**GOAL OF THIS COURSE:** As a result of taking this course, you should be able to analyze your audience so that you can preach effective messages that are both biblical and relevant. You should have completed courses in exegesis and hermeneutics so that you are able to accurately interpret the biblical text. The basic course in homiletics focuses on going from the Scripture to the sermon. This course focuses on reaching the audiences to whom we preach.

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES:** You will be able to use imagination as an interpretive tool. This will be measured through creating and delivering a first-person narrative from a biblical text. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less without the use of notes.

You will deliver an effective introduction to your final sermon that gets attention, surfaces a need and orients the audience to a biblical passage. Present it in four (4) minutes or less without the use of notes.

You will preach one life-related sermon without the use of notes. Present it in eighteen (18) minutes or less.

You will develop a keener awareness of illustrative material by collecting and filing at least 20 (20) new illustrations. The illustrations may be on any subject but they must have been acquired during the weeks the class is in session. To get you into the routine of constantly searching for illustrations, you will bring six illustrations to class each weekend (Friday).

**REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOKS:**

- Arthurs, *Preaching with Variety*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Galli, Mark and Craig Larson, *Preaching that Connects*. Grand Rapids:

- Zondervan, 1994.
- Heath, Chip & Dan. *Made To Stick*. New York: Random House, 2008.
  - Robinson, *Biblical Sermons*.
  - Robinson, Haddon and Torrey Robinson. *It's All in How You Tell It*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.
  - Whillhite, Keith and Scott Gibson, *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
  - Audio Sermons

**Recommended:**

- Sunukjian, Donald R. *An Invitation to Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2007.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

**DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**I. READING**

- A. Read *It's All In How You Tell It* and simply report that you have read the book. **Due on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**.
- B. Read *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*, edited by Keith Willhite and Scott Gibson. Answer the first two questions at the end of each chapter: What is the chapter talking about? What is the chapter saying about what it's talking about? Hand in a page with subject/complement for each chapter. Due last day of class, **Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**.
- C. Read *Made to Stick* by Chip Heath & Dan Heath. (see section II.A).
- D. Read *Biblical Sermons* ed. by Haddon Robinson. Then read *Preaching that Connects* by Mark Galli and Craig Larson. (see section III.B.)
- E. Read Arthurs, *Preaching with Variety*. Then, focus on the chapter(s) that best corresponds to your final preaching passage(s). How did the principles in that chapter inform the way you preached your passage? Reflect on the preparation and delivery of your final sermon in light of the book. You will present your evaluation on the final day of class, **Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**II. PAPER**

- A. Listen to two sermons (total) from your favorite preacher(s). Then read *Made to Stick* by Chip Heath & Dan Heath. Hand in one report for each sermon. At the top of your paper, write out the name of the preacher, sermon title, name of church and date that it was preached. Each report should be no more than (2) two pages double-spaced. **Due on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**. In your paper, do the following:
  1. Did the preacher communicate a clear, central idea? Do you believe it was derived from the passage?

2. What makes this preacher one of your favorites? What is it about his/her preaching that resonates with you?
3. Take two principles discussed in *Made to Stick* and illustrate them at work in the sermons you listened to.

### III. DISCUSSION/SERMON ANALYSIS

- A.** Listen to four sermons, then meet with a small group from your class to discuss them. Spend a minimum of 1½ hours in discussion. Use the discussion questions on page eleven (11) of this syllabus for your analysis. Dig deep. Analyze. Due on our last day of class, **Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**.

#### First-Person Narratives

1. Bryan Wilkerson, “A Workingman’s Christmas”
2. Haddon Robinson, “The Forgotten Man of Christmas”

#### Need-Based Sermons

1. Bryan Wilkerson, “Will & Grace: Thinking Biblically About Homosexuality”
2. Andy Stanley, “Taking Care of Business, Part One: Meet the Boss” (iTunes, North Point Community Church podcast)

- B.** Meet with your small group to discuss *Biblical Sermons* and *Preaching that Connects*:

1. Based on what you know of homiletics, which of the sermons in *Biblical Sermons* did you consider the strongest and which the weakest. Why?
2. Take three principles discussed in *Preaching that Connects* and illustrate them at work in sermons from *Biblical Sermons*.

#### Dr. Arthurs’ Tips for Group Discussion:

Not: “The preacher had good delivery. I liked it, and it was easy to listen to.”

But: “The preacher’s delivery was captivating because of her expert use of the pause. She used silence to rivet attention at two crucial points: x and y. Besides the expert use of silence, the preacher’s voice reinforced the content very well. When she described her childhood joys, her voice was lively and quick. When she expressed anger, I could hear it in her flat pitch and harsh tone.”

Not: “I couldn’t figure out the preacher’s big idea.”

But: “I was confused as I listened and am still confused as I try to state the preacher’s big idea. It seems that the preacher had two big ideas, x and y, but he did not demonstrate how they relate to each other or how they arise from the text. The intro ‘funneled’ nicely into x, but then the conclusion stated y.”

#### IV. ILLUSTRATIONS

- A. Bring six illustrations to class each weekend (Friday). They must be illustrations that you collected during the course.

#### V. PREACHING

- A. **First-Person Narrative**—preach a contemporary first-person sermon based on Matthew 18:21-35. Tell the story in a modern setting keeping the theological dynamics of the parable in clear focus. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less.
- B. **Introduction**—prepare an introduction for your final sermon. The introduction should gain attention, surface a need, and orient us to what follows in your sermon. Four (4) minutes.
- C. **Final Sermon**—Your final sermon will start with a problem faced by someone in a congregation. In your introduction you will express that problem as someone might express it in conversation. In your sermon you will speak to that person’s problem from a biblical text. Deliver the message with enthusiasm and directness. Use eye contact and gestures. The sermon will be preached without notes (except, of course, for quotes and statistics). Eighteen (18) minutes or less.
- D. **Final Sermon Manuscript and Outline**—Due the day you preach.

Include:

- Your text
- Exegetical idea (subject and complement)
- Homiletical idea
- Purpose—state in three brief phrases what you want the listeners to Think, Feel, and Do as a result of your sermon
- Complete sentences
- One sentence per point/move
- Write out transitions word for word. Use *italics*. I suggest using rhetorical questions and restatement.
- Write out intro and conclusion word for word.

#### V. ILLUSTRATIONS

Collect 20 illustrations. The illustrations must be collected during the course of the class.

## **VI. GRADING**

100-94=A    93-90 = A-  
89-87 = B+    86-84 = B    83-80 = B-    etc.

All work is due on the day assigned. *Late work will receive a 0*, although I will be happy to give you feedback, if you desire it. If you experience illness or emergency, please speak to me personally. In those cases, your grade will not be penalized. At the end of the semester borderline cases will be determined on the basis of class participation, but no grade will be raised more than 4 points.

### **PREPARING FOR OUR FIRST CLASS:**

Please read Acts, chapter 2. In addition to the work of the Holy Spirit, why did the sermon produce the response it did?

Read Matt. 18:21-35. What do you think are the subject/complement of this narrative?

Think of two (2) problems faced by individuals in your church. Describe them in personal terms (how do people express them?) What theological problems lie behind the surface problems? What biblical passages might you go to in addressing these problems?

## VII. COURSE CALENDAR

### Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

6:00-6:45	Introduction & Introductions/Esther
6:45-7:15	“Preaching Essentials—Review”
7:15-8:30	“Who is My Audience? Does it Matter?” “A Look at One of History’s Greatest Sermons”
8:30-9:30	Small Groups & “The Commitments of an Expository Preacher”

**DUE:** six illustrations

### Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00AM-10:30	“The Path from a Text to a Sermon,” Matt. 18:1-20
10:30-12:00	“Tell Me a Story of Jesus”
12:00-1:00PM	LUNCH
1:00PM-2:30PM	“Imagination: A Forgotten Tool in Interpretation & Communication”
2:30-4:00PM	“Show & Don’t Tell”

### Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:00-8:30	INTRODUCTIONS  “Applying Make-Up”  <b>DUE:</b> six illustrations
8:30-9:30	Small Group Meetings

**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00AM-12:00PM

FIRST-PERSON NARRATIVES

Prepare a first-person narrative based on Matt. 18:21-35. Tell the story in a modern setting keeping the theological dynamics of the parable in clear focus. Present it in eight (8) minutes or less.

**DUE:** Read *It's All in How You Tell It*.

12:00-1:00PM

LUNCH

1:00-2:30

“The Case for Application”  
“Application Caution”  
“A Model for Application”

2:30-4:00

“Speaking for the Ear”

**Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

6:00-8:30

FINAL SERMONS

8:30-9:30

Small Group Meetings

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:30-12:00

FINAL SERMONS

12:00-1:00

LUNCH

1:00-4:30

Final Sermon Reflection Presentation

**Attendance and Reading Report—PR602**  
**(Please hand this in on the last day of class)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

Number of classes attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you meet with your group to discuss the sermons? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you read *It's All in How You Tell It* in its entirety? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you read *The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching* and hand in subject/complement for each chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you collect 20 illustrations? \_\_\_\_\_

Final Sermon Reflection Presentation. Deduct one letter grade for failing to complete this assignment.

Sermon Introduction \_\_\_\_\_(grade) 15%

First-Person Narrative \_\_\_\_\_(grade) 25%

Final Sermon & Manuscript \_\_\_\_\_(grade) 35%

Final Sermon Outline \_\_\_\_\_(grade) 5%

Report on sermons and *Made To Stick* \_\_\_\_\_(grade) 5%

Reading Report \_\_\_\_\_(grade) 15%

Attendance & Class Participation  
*The Big Idea of Biblical Preaching*  
*It's All in How You Tell It*  
Sermon Analyses with group  
20 Sermon Illustrations

## Questions to Consider When Listening to or Reading a Sermon

**For the CD listening assignment:** Please write out each question followed by your response. Please be specific—give examples for what is asked.

1. What do you think is the main idea or concept the preacher was trying to get across? Please state it and analyze and comment on it.
2. When through with the introduction, did you want the preacher to go on?  
Y/N Did it capture interest so that you would want him/her to continue?  
Y/N How did he/she do? Analyze and comment.
3. Did he/she illustrate? Y/N If so, what did he/she do? – to explain, prove or apply? Did he/she succeed? Y/N Why or why not? Analyze and comment. You must provide specific examples of how the preacher explained, proved or applied the text.
4. Do you think the conclusion drove home the main idea of the sermon in a way that caused you to want to respond? Analyze and comment.
5. What do you think that you as a listener might do, think or change as a result of hearing the sermon?
6. Do you think the delivery helped or hindered the presentation? What were its strengths? What about weaknesses? Analyze and comment.
7. Do you think that the sermon grew out of the biblical text? Or was it imposed on it? Analyze and comment.

**Evaluation Sheet: Final Sermon  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Box: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Intro

Gain Attention  
Surface Need  
Introduce Idea

---

Exegesis

---

Relevance

Adapted to the audience  
Application

---

Central Idea

Clear  
Repeated

---

Arrangement

Clear/logical  
Transitions

---

Conclusion

Summarize  
Reinforce

---

Language and Delivery

Evaluation Sheet: Introduction  
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**GAIN ATTENTION:**

**SURFACE A NEED:**

**INTRODUCE SUBJECT/IDEA/FIRST MOVE:**

**LANGUAGE/DELIVERY:**

**Evaluation Sheet: First-Person Narrative  
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**Gain Attention?**

**True to the theology of the passage?**

**Language and Delivery:**