

Preparing and delivering a sermon – Part 001

Isaiah 52:6-8 *"How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Opening

It is with great joy that I can be here today to teach/help/ assist all the pastors here today. I want you to know that I do not consider myself superior to you in anyway and that it is a great privilege for me to share practically how to prepare a sermon.

I also will invite questions a little later, so if you have a question, make a note of it and ask me during the questions and answers session at the end of this session.

The first session I will be giving you some practical advices as a pastor and leader and in the second sessions I will give instruction on how to prepare a sermon.

Introduction

So let's begin. Let's look at how to prepare a sermon and what a sermon should look like or contain, this is not a formula but rather a guideline that will help you as you prepare and maybe you will modify this outline to make your own unique format for presenting the Word of God to your congregations.

I want start this session by discussing you as a pastor or leader, I cannot explain the importance of Knowing God personally, knowing His Word and having a meaningful relationship with Him without this you will already be at a disadvantage.

You cannot go beyond your experience

I cannot stress how important preparation is for any sermon, I see many pastors in many churches today where they tend to preaching off the cuff, unprepared sermons or usually the same kind of sermon over and over again.

Many pastors have a pet subject or two and they tend to repeat the basic concept of these topics over and again.

Although I am not criticising any pastor if they choose this format or do this but if you do follow this format you will produce unhealthy church members or members who are strong in certain areas but weak in others.

As pastors we are tasked to bring the entire Gospel, grounded in the Word of God, to our church and for this you as a pastor will need to spend much time:

- In the Word of God, both in personal study, and daily personal bible reading

Every one of us as Pastors need to spend much time in the Word of God, not only reading the Word, but memorizing scripture, meditating on the Word and applying the Word of God in our own lives.

This personal study, memorizing is the fuel the Holy Spirit will use as you prepare a sermon. Each time I start to prepare a message, I first sit back and think what I can remember what the word says about the topic.

Then I will go to that specific passage and prepare from that. It amazes me all the time that I remember and recall scriptures, maybe not chapter and verse but the basic wording of the scripture and then everything just start to fall into place.

I must add and not to brag but I read my Bible a lot. I cannot tell you how many times I have read through my Bible, I honestly do not know but it is a lot. And still each time I read the passage another revelation comes to light.

So I cannot stress how VERY import it is to be grounded in the Word of God. Make up your mind today, let's stand and put your Bible in the air, and say after me.

"This is God's Word for my life. This is God's operations manual on how I should live my life. I believe what it says, and I will do what it instructs me to do. I will always take God's Word as final authority in my life – where I am wrong in my life, I will change according to His Word and where there is error in my life I will repent and make the changes. Where this Word is in contradiction to my lifestyle I will change my lifestyle in accordance with His Word.

From today, I will Live by this Word, I will Honour and respect this Word of God, I will believe what it says about me, I will act according to what God's Word says I should act and I do what this Word of God says I must do - Amen"

- In Pray and petitioning
The foundation of any relationship is communication. The Bible says in **John 16:23-24** ²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

We do not have because we do not ask. Go before God with your prayers and petitions and pray for your church, the members, the leaders etc.

I pray every day for the Leadership of Holy Cross Pentecostal church by Name! Before I come on an outreach I have spent hours praying for certain things and issues I feel God wants me to pray about.

We need to do the same.

- In the Spirit
This is a tool that is so overlooked by the church but is so powerful for you as a pastor. Often you will get to a situation in your church or with a church member and you do not know what to says in English of Chichewa, then go

into the Spirit and pray in your heavenly language and believe that God with breakthrough in that situation.

- Hearing God speak to you and getting direction
The Bible says in **Hosea 4:6** "*My people are destroyed for **lack of knowledge***"

James 1:5 ⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him*"

We need to realise that God is the source of all wisdom (**Proverbs 1:7**) and He will give you and me the knowledge we need, we need to ask Him and hear Him speak that knowledge.

- Listening to other Pastors, sermons, and reading books and other study notes.
I cannot tell you how much information and assistance on topics I have received through listening to other pastors preach, reading books, watching TBN, personal study and talking to other pastors.

Never feel that you cannot ask them anything or that you might be seen as ignorant or not a good pastor. No if you do not understand speak to them and ask them to explain, 99% of pastors will be glad to help you, including myself – just find me in the breaks, introduce yourself and ask away and if I have an answer I will help where I can – remember I do not know is also an answer!

You see your church and NEVER surpass the area of your expertise and knowledge of God. If you do not know God, you cannot lead people to Him. If you do not know the Spirit. How will you tell others about Him?

You see none of us can tell others in our churches, of things you have personally experienced.

EXAMPLE: Tell the story of the Pastor at Work and speaking in tongues. So if you want to lead your congregation into the very presence of God, you, yourself have to of been there or you cannot lead them there.

So your personal time with God, your relationship of Him, your experiences of Him will determine how convincing you will be or able you will be to lead your congregation there.

So the most important thing that you can do as a pastor is get your relationship with God in order. Train yourself in the Word of God, study the Word of God and from what you have deposited in your life will come out naturally.

As Paul said in **1 Corinthians 14:18**, he spoke more in tongue than anyone else – you as the pastor of your church MUST

- Read your bible the most in the church
- Pray the most in your church

- Study the most in your church
- Pray in the Spirit more than anyone else

Not with an attitude I am better or just babbling, but praying with understanding, reading with understanding.

So today I am calling you Pastor, you Bishop, you church leader, you elder, whoever you are! I call you to seek God with all your mind, soul and spirit – all of you – everything within you.

Be David's The Shepherd

Whenever I think of Pastoring I think of Jesus Christ the Great Shepherd, willing to leave the 99 to go after the 1 that is lost.

Also, when we think of shepherds in the Bible, we tend to think of King David. Before God rose Him up to be King of Israel he was first a shepherd of a small flock of sheep.

Daily he would lay his life down for the sheep in his care, the Bible even records how he killed a lion and took the lamb from his mouth and even a bear.

He was fearless, as we as pastors must be. We need to attack Satan's stronghold and free those who are bound.

Man after God's own heart

The Bible says that David was a man after God's own heart, why? Was it because he was such a good shepherd, was it because God loved him so much?

No God said David was a man after His own heart because David always went the extra mile. He did not just do something because he had to and it was his job, but because David always went the extra mile.

Homework

As Homework go and read the story of David (**1 Samuel 16** onward), you will see phrases like Jonathan loved David, but David loved him more, Jonathan wept but David wept more (**1 Samuel 20:41**) – even when the "Arc of the covenant" was brought into Jerusalem, David was prepared to make a spectacle of himself and honour God.

Know God

David knew God, he knew Him as his Saviour and friend, he had a reverential fear of God, and had a heart for his people. The Bible says in **Daniel 11:32**, "*but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits*"

We need to know our God, know His character, know His plan for us, know His will for us etc. When we know Him, we will run a race for Him that with we amazing.

Love your Flock

David loved his people and everything he did was for their benefit. And when he did things on their behalf, he did it with, not to benefit himself or for his own good but out sincerity, honestly, love and a fear and love for God – This is the same characteristic you and I should have as a pastor,

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned but have not love, it profits me nothing.”*

As a pastor or leader of the church, you are a shepherd of a special flock that God has called you to shepherd. He is not going to give you a bigger flock unless you can look after the ones you have.

Giving an account

And unless you look after them with the fear of God, zeal and utmost care knowing that you and I will give an account before God of our shepherding of His sheep.

Each Pastor leader here today and in the whole world will give an account of how we lead our flocks.

Hebrews 13:16-17 *“¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. ¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”*

If we did it well we will receive a special crown called the Crown of Glory – **1 Peter 5:1-4** *“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly,^[a] not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”*

So we need to realise we are working for God and that we will give an account of our work.

Living Holy

As men and women of God we need to live lives that are pure and Holy. Not that we are so spiritual and untouchable.

To be Holy means to be set apart, you are set apart to represent God to the world, you cannot be living in sin, you must be a New Creation according to **2 Corinthians 5:17** *“If any man is in Christ, he is a NEW Creation”* – different species.

You cannot afford to be luke warm or cold, you must live a live that brings honour to God in every area and you must live apart from the world not in the world so that no one knows the difference.

Many luke warm pastors today have cause the most damage to the Kingdom of God because they confuse the world with a false message of God and a false example of how a Christian should live.

You need to make a decision today, pastor, church leader – are you are pastor serving God for the money or because you are called. If it is for the money you might as well go and work somewhere else you will make more money.

But if you choose to be a pastor because God has called you, you will see His provision in your life, every day.

I often say, that when you live in the perfect will of God there is always provision but when you are not in His perfect will there is lack.

Most of the time there is poverty in our churches because we as pastors did not teach our churches what the Word of God says about giving and the people have the wrong idea that pastor wants more money!

Closing

Inclosing this session let me highlight the areas of what I taught

- You cannot go beyond your experience
- Be the Shepherd of your flock
- Be a Man after God's own heart
- Know you God
- Love you flock
- Live clean lives.
- Remember you will give and account
- Be Holy

The most important thing to remember as a pastor or leader of the church is that "if you have the mumps and preach to your church the mumps, they will not get the measles but the mumps"

In other words if you are living a life of sin and try preaching the Gospel the people who are listening to you will get the sin not the Gospel.

In the next session I will teach you how to preach but I needed to teach this sessions so that we all realise that being a pastor and preparing sermons takes much prayer, personal study of the Bible and time praying, fasting and hearing God voice in your situation.

QUESTIONS

Closing Prayer