

Notes from a Seminar on Preaching by Adam Hamilton
Large Church Initiative Event
Kansas City - April, 2001

People today are looking for meaning and hope and we are the dispensers of these.

The goal of the preacher is to help people know God, grow them in their faith, and worship is the primary spiritual formation the non-religious will have for at least their first two years in the church.

5 Roles of the Preacher:

1. Apologist/evangelist making the case for Christ and the case for faith.
2. Pastor and Caregiver - hurting people expect God to speak through us
3. Bible teacher - most people don't know their Bible.
4. Spiritual mentor to people - through my life and my sharing I model what the spiritual life is like. Inspire people to go higher up and farther in.
5. Vision-caster, fund raiser, and the person who deals with critical issues in the life of the church.

Series preaching allows us to start with where the people are and ask what are their needs? What do these people need to hear, what is going on in their hearts, what are they struggling with and what does the gospel have to say about that?

Take two weeks in July to get away to read, ruminate, reflect, pray, etc. and plan your sermons two years in advance. Take newspaper clippings, etc. to look through. Get away for 36 hours twice a year to plan out your preaching outline for the next six months.

Once this is finalized all the arts people can begin to organize around those themes music, video, screen images, PPTs etc,

During those two weeks in July ask:

What are the sheep thinking about
What are they confused or frightened by?
What are they struggling with in their personal lives
What does God want to say to these sheep?

What are they missing from their diet?

How do you figure out what people are thinking about? Time and Newsweek ask this question every week. They are trying to be in touch with the pulse of the nation to know what people are thinking about?

Frightened by? Prayer request cards reveal this.

Struggling with? Pastoral counseling tells you this. Sit down with people and hear their stories.

What does God want to say to them? Discover this in prayer. Ask God to help you understand his message to them.

What is missing from diet? Know what it takes to make disciples and see what's missing. What does a deeply committed disciple look like and what do I need to give them to help them get there?

Fishing Expedition Sermon Series Ideas:

Conduct fishing expeditions twice a year. Preach a series that will cause non-religious folk to say, "I want to come back." Make it life oriented. Make it discipling, pastoral caring, etc. The titles and themes are just a foil for getting to the deeper stuff.

Where Was God When? was a series that explored God's providence and what it means nuts and bolts in every day life. Every one of you in this church is one day going to need this series one day.

In Lent take people deeper - a teaching series - confirmation training for everyone.

Adam did a series with the local TV news station: The Gospel in the Stories Making News Today

Watch the news

Narrow it down to 3 stories by Friday

Monday pin it down to one story

Now what does the gospel have to do with daily life?

Church of the Resurrection and Channel 9 will share info and work on this through the week. Channel 9 will cover the sermons in their reporting of the news.)

Adam used a questionnaire in prep for the series on love, sex and marriage. Solicited comments in response to "If Rev. Hamilton could say anything to your husband/wife for you, what would you want him to say?"

Questions Thinking People Ask that Keep Them from Faith

Write down the three hardest questions you can think of that might keep you or someone you know from faith? The series was based on the top 8 questions. A series on apologetics.

Lenten series:

Ten Habits of Highly Effective Christians

The classic spiritual disciplines applied to every day life.

Portraits of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke

The Life of Jesus

Sermons on the Narrow Road

Summer Series:

Jesus at the Crossroads of America

Adam's Typical Schedule:

July off 2 wks vacation 2 wks study

2 retreats a year w/ staff

15 hours a week for sermon prep

Monday = research

Tuesday = research

Wednesday p.m. first draft (of 5)

Worship team on

Friday - off

Saturdays - half day

Assistant does a bundle of research