Principles of Biblical Preaching

02 – "Finding the Nuggets"

Eld. Darryl Bentley

1

Establishing An Outline Based On The Pericope

- After establishing your pericope, you must determine what the text is attempting to transmit to the reader in its original setting and for us today.

Basic Biblical Exegesis:
- Literary Context-
  - Read the chapter or two before your passage and the chapter or two after your passage.
  - What was the Bible writer was attempting to convey overall to their readers back then?
- Historical Context-
  - What was happening in the world during that time of history?
  - How did those events impact popular thinking in those days?
  - Do we have historical dates that help us tie biblical events to historical ones?
- Cultural Context:
  - What common cultural elements may have been at play that affected the way they received the message?

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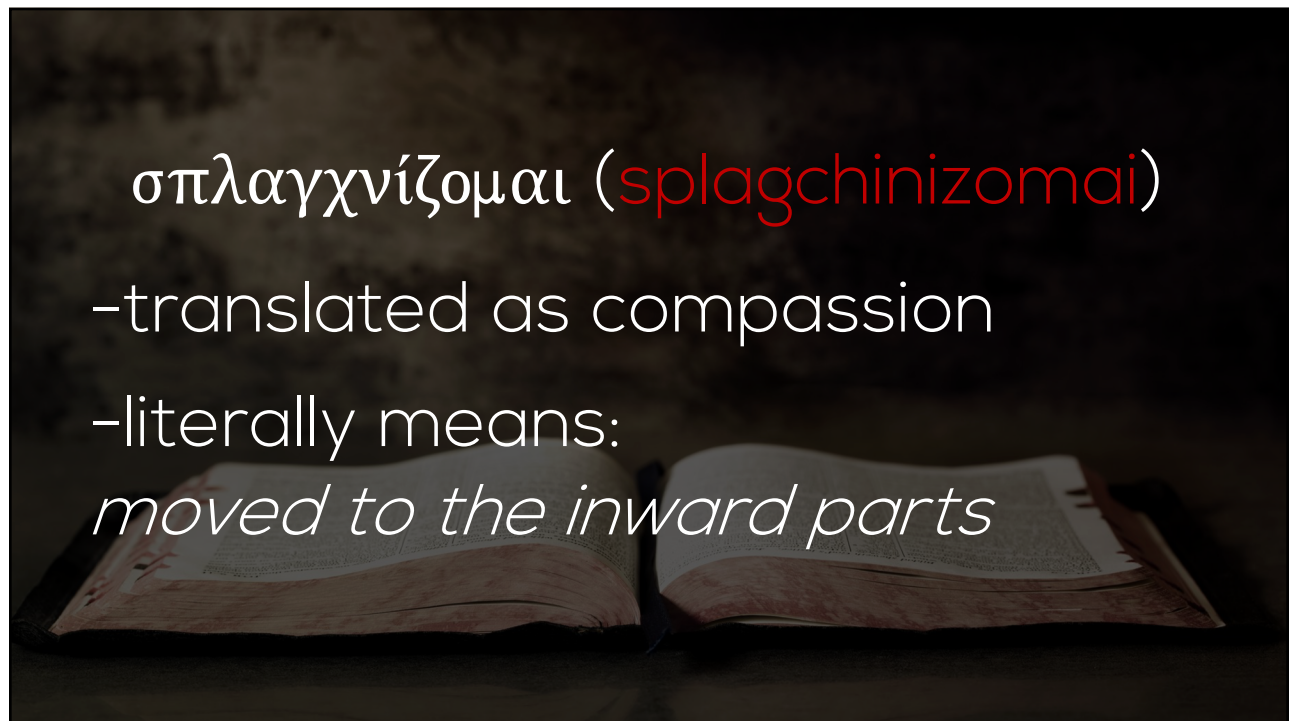**PRINCIPLES of BIBLICAL PREACHING | 02 - "Finding the Nuggets"**

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Basic Biblical Exegesis - continued:
- Biblical Languages:
  - Don't get overly focused on looking up every Greek or Hebrew word.
  - If there is a particular word that brings out a unique understanding or helps add life to the passage that may have been lost in the translation, then break that down.

3

σπλαγχνίζομαι (splagchinizomai)

-translated as compassion

-literally means:
moved to the inward parts

4

…I feel compassion for the people, because they have remained with Me now three days and have nothing to eat;

Matthew 15:32 NASB

5

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- Biblical Languages:
  - Don't get overly focused on looking up every Greek or Hebrew word.
  - If there is a particular word that brings out a unique understanding or helps add life to the passage that may have been lost in the translation, then break that down.
  - By explaining *splagchinizomai* we can bring that deeper meaning to Jesus' words.
  - You do not need a degree in biblical languages to be able to learn and understand words in the original languages.
  - Use the tools available to you:
    - www.blueletterbible.com

6

Matt 15:32 NKJV

7

Matt 15:32 NKJV

8

9

10

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Basic Biblical Exegesis - continued:
- After a careful study of the pericope through the 3 lenses of context (literary, historical, cultural), it is now time to pull together the information from the passage.
- Three basic questions should be answered:
  - #1-*What was the author trying to convey to the original audience?*
  - #2-*What does the passage teach us about God?*
  - #3-*So what or what am I going to do about it?*
- Once we can answer these questions, we can begin to put together a sermon outline.
- IMPORTANT POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND:
  - We must attempt to be as true as possible to the biblical text.
  - We must attempt to bridge the principles we discover from the past with the present.
  - We DO NOT have a license to twist the text or to use it out of context!

11

"These are the signs of the last days. Let every one who believes in Jesus Christ stop his dark, gloomy utterances, and use his talent of voice in exalting Jesus and presenting testimonies that will magnify, honor, and adore the Word of God, illustrate its value, and extol its preciousness. The gospel makes itself known in its power in the consistent, holy, pure lives of those who are believers, hearers, and doers of the Word. The unity and love among believers makes the impression upon the world that the Word of God is true. Purely, boldly, faithfully, and uncompromisingly show the validity and divine character of the Word of God."

EGW Letter 110, 1893, para. 23

12

2/22/22

PRINCIPLES of **BIBLICAL** PREACHING | 02 - "Finding the Nuggets"

Use of Ellen White's Writings & Commentaries

1. The writings of Ellen White are a special gift and tremendous blessing to the church.
2. However, she should not be used as your crutch.
3. She should not be used to skip past your personal wrestling with the text.
4. It is homiletical laziness to simply read all she wrote on a given passage and then regurgitate that to the congregation.

16

"<u>The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried to the front</u>. God's Word is the unerring standard. The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word. Great care should be exercised by all believers to advance these questions carefully, and always stop when you have said enough. Let all prove their positions from the Scriptures and substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God."

EGW Letter 12, 1890

18

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4. It is homiletical laziness to simply read all she wrote on a given passage and then regurgitate that to the congregation.
5. A sermon should NEVER be just a reading of Ellen White quotes. She would rebuke us for doing so.
6. You never know who will be in church each Sabbath and they need to hear the Bible.
7. So, how should we use her writings?
   a. Only after we have done our exegetical work should we read her writings on a given topic.
   b. Let her writings be a source to fill in some gaps in our study.
   c. Occasional use of a quote is not wrong any more than quoting other authors is.
   d. But let it be few and far between.

21

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Use of Ellen White's Writings & Commentaries - continued

8. The same holds true for commentaries.
9. If we simply read a bunch of commentaries without doing our own study, we are being homiletically lazy.
10. Give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to speak afresh to your mind and to enlighten you.
11. The same Spirit who led the Bible writers can and will lead you to understand God's word.
12. Again, let commentaries only be consulted to help us fill in the gaps of our understanding once we have wrestled with the text.

22