

Principles of Biblical Preaching: Part 2

“Finding the Nuggets”

~All Bible references from New American Standard Bible (NASB) unless otherwise noted~

1. Establishing an outline based on your pericope.
 - a. After establishing your pericope, you must determine what the text is attempting to transmit to the reader.
 - b. You discover the text’s intent by reading the chapter or two before your passage and the chapter or two after your passage to establish the literary context.
 - c. Once you have the literary context of the passage you can try to determine what the Bible writer was attempting to convey to their readers back then.
 - d. Once you have an idea of what the Bible writer was attempting to convey to their original readers you can then try to bridge the divide from them to us.
 - e. After you have a good idea of the writer’s original intent you can then ask how that applies to our modern world.
 - f. In bridging the Biblical and modern worlds we must ascertain what was cultural and what was theological. In other words, what was written and done as a part of their culture, and what was done because it had a theological foundation that transcends the shifting sands of culture?
 - g. When you can determine the cultural and theological elements it allows you to then know what is essential to share with your audience.
2. Practice Pericope
 - a. 1 Timothy 2:9-15
 - i. ⁹ Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,
 - ii. ¹⁰ but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.
 - iii. ¹¹ A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.
 - iv. ¹² But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.
 - v. ¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.
 - vi. ¹⁴ And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.
 - vii. ¹⁵ But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.
 - b. To whom was Paul writing this letter? To Timothy.
 - c. Why was Paul writing to Timothy? To give Timothy instruction to be the best pastor that he could be.
 - d. As Paul conveys his counsel, he gives Timothy theological arguments to support his counsel. Notice verses 13-15 of our pericope. The argument that Paul gives is purely theological and has no foundation in culture. Paul clearly references Genesis 3 when he writes to Timothy.
 - e. Because Paul is writing as a mentor to Timothy, he is very straightforward with his words. We as preachers today must find a way to present those very direct words in such a way as to not needlessly offend anyone in our audience.

3. Possible structure of an outline for this pericope

a. Recipe for Success

- i. Paul had a heart that longed to see all people successfully live for Christ
- ii. He gave instruction to Timothy as to how to teach the flock with which he was entrusted.
- iii. In the first half of 1 Timothy 2 Paul addresses the need for the men of the church to be mighty men of prayer.
- iv. In the last half of the same chapter Paul seeks to give Timothy guidance that he can serve as an encouragement to the women in the church as well.

b. Lifting up the Ladies

- i. Paul had traveled widely as he sought to spread the gospel of Christ across the region, and he knew that true women of God should make sure that they did not resemble the Pagans and heathens who had no moral guidance. It is because Paul wanted the ladies to be different for God that he sought to mentor Timothy in how to best encourage and train the ladies in the church.
- ii. In this vein Paul says that godly women should dress modestly and discreetly without the flashy immodest adornments of the world (vs.9).
- iii. He goes on to contrast the worldly trappings against the beautiful attribute of good works. Essentially Paul is saying that godly women will show their beauty and good quality by working for the Lord, not by covering themselves with the trappings of this world.

c. Body of Good Works

- i. It is interesting to note that Paul associates the good works that women should do with how they participate in the church and at home with spiritual things.
- ii. Paul says that women should quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. At first glance this would appear to say that women must sit silently and never make a sound, but we must understand Paul's teaching on submission.
 1. In Ephesians 5:22 Paul admonishes women to be subject to their husbands as to the Lord.
 2. He goes on to say that the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is head of the church. But he does not stop there.
 3. In verse 25 Paul then tells men to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. In other words, men should love their wives with a sacrificial love. If men were willing to die for their wives then most women would have no issue with being submissive to their husbands.
- iii. When we understand that Paul expects men to love their wives sacrificially then we can know that he would expect the men to do everything within their power to be the priest of their home and ensure that their wives and children had a saving knowledge of Jesus. This is liberating not constraining.
- iv. Of course, this is in complete harmony with his next statement about not allowing women to have authority over men. He is not attempting to suppress women; he is attempting to ensure that each one plays their proper role as ordained by God.

d. Cultural or Theological?

- i. Many have read this passage and tried to explain away the principles it contains by saying that these were culturally based teachings. Paul says differently.
 - ii. As soon as he makes the statements in verses 11 and 12, he launches right into a theological presentation by making direct references to Genesis 3.
 - iii. He states that things should be the way he is presenting them because:
 - 1. Because Adam was created first, and he was placed as ruler of this world until he forfeited to Satan by sinning (Gen 2:20-25).
 - 2. Adam did not fall into sin by deception; Eve did (Gen 3:13).
 - iv. Notice that Paul does not present anything for his teaching based on culture. He pulls everything directly from the Word of God.
- e. Hope Beyond Submission
 - i. We have another insight into Paul's care for women by how he closes out the chapter.
 - ii. He wants women to know that God has a plan for them, and they do not have to live in the shadow of Eve's sin, but they have a very important role to play as it relates to the spiritual instruction of their children as they play the role of a godly mother.
- f. Summary
 - i. This passage brings a challenge to both men and women. To men because we must be men of prayer. When we are will have a heart that loves Jesus and our wives. When we love our wives sacrificially then we will make sure that we are doing our duty as priest of the household.
 - ii. Women who experience the warm, kind, loving attention of their husbands will most likely be drawn to follow their husbands lead if they are submitted to God fully.
 - iii. The question that comes from this passage is really two-fold.
 - 1. Will women who profess godliness be willing to submit to God first and their husbands second?
 - 2. If they are, it will be evidenced by their outward dress and their deeds performed in Christian love.
 - 3. And will they accept the sacrificial love of their husbands and be willing to receive the instruction that God will bring through their husbands?
 - iv. For sure, respect is a two-way street, but submission to God's plan for the roles that He has called men and women to play goes beyond mere respect. It cuts to the very core of who we profess to be as Christians.
- g. Appeal
 - i. As we can see from Paul's teaching, the word of God is calling us to be men and women of faith. The question is, "Are we going to be faithful to the Lord and live how he has called us to live?"
 - ii. Are you willing to be a godly man who loves his wife sacrificially, today? Ladies, are you willing to be godly women who responds to the love of God and your husbands?