**STUDY SKILLS**

**METHODS FOR STUDY**

With study skills there must be a strategy, it does not do any good to stare at the ceiling and wait for a topic from the Holy Spirit. If you are reading Scripture, let the Scripture make the points for you. The Bible will never run out of sermons to preach. There are times like vacation where is can be hard to make time for preparing more sermons, reading more books. Find down time throughout the day to make time for the Lord's Word. *"There is no idea that carries with it greater consequences for how you think or behave then how you think about God"* - Mortimer Adler.

You can read books on how to preach a sermon, every year to refresh your mind. Learn to read every book in the Bible as a whole. Read it over and over again throughout your life.

**HOW TO READ A BOOK**

*RULES FOR READING*

* 1. Rule #1: You should know what kind of book you are reading, and you should know this as early in the process as possible, preferably before you begin to read.
  2. Rule #2: State the unity of the whole book in a single sentence, or at most a few sentences (a short paragraph (p.75, 76).
  3. Rule #3: Set forth the major parts of the book, and show how these are organized into a whole, by being ordered to one another and to the unity of the whole. Pg. 76.
  4. Rule #4: Find out what the author's problems were.
  5. Rule #5: Find the most important words and through them come to terms with the author.
  6. Rule #6: Mark the most important sentences in a book by finding the major propositions.

You can break the Bible down into 6 acts

Read the Bible as one story and not as two separate testaments. The N.T. is a continuation of the O.T. with a difference in covenants. Treat the bible like a stereo, one side plays one part of the song and the other side plays the other part. They are both the same "song" just from two different sides.

Act 1

* Creation

Act 2

* Fall (Gen 3)<------ This is the main conflict of scripture

Act 3

* The story of Israel (Begins with Gen. 12:1-3,7)<-----It is a fundamental story of idolatry and rebellion which bring them back to captivity

Act 4

* The story of Jesus<------The Gospel accounts

Acts 5

* The story of the Church<------This extends to our day. We are inside acts 5 right now, this is OUR story. Humanities story is what we are living right now through the reading of the N.T.

Act 6

* Return of the King

Major turning points:

* 1 Sam. 8 = Israel asks for a King, they rejected God as king and then in the N.T. we see the emphasis of Matt., and John being on Jesus' Kingship/Deity,
* God's presence was manifested in the temple and asks the question now through the Prophet of what other nation has the glory of the Lord been in? (Eek. 1-11) tells of the Glory of the Lord departing because of idol worship.
* Israel returns from captivity and supposes to rebuild the temple, and some remember the former Glory of the temple. Other prophets were brought in to help encourage them. The former glory of the temple in context can refer to not the splendor of the building but the Glory of God Himself not being there as He was before.
* Jesus' resurrection, He died, rose, and has not died since. Others have been raised but they all die again.

How do you become successful?

* Glorifying God
* How do you Glorify God?
  + Knowledge, obedience, faith, fruits of the spirit
  + The answer is (Psalm 1) "meditate on His law day and night"
* Now, meditating is thinking, having it in your mind so you can understand it. It does not have a 10-minute timeline, or even a 30-minute timeline. It is a continual process, it never leaves him, he does not go on vacation and leaves it behind. We should never treat scripture as something to take a break from, unfortunately we act like that sometimes.

With that, there are 3 types of questions to ask

Psalms 1:1-6

* Observation (what does the text say?)
  + Planted by the waters
  + Brings forth fruit in its season
  + Leaf shall not wither
* Interpretation (What does it mean?)
  + That tree is "Nourished" by the water
  + Bringing fruit is saying it is productive when it's expected
  + It is healthy since its leaves do not wither
* Application (How does it apply?)
  + The one who meditates on God's law day and night will be
    - Nourished
    - Productive
    - Healthy
  + The man who is like a tree is contrasted with the ungodly who is like the chaff
  + As the wheat is thrown into the air the winnowing fan blows the chaff away so the wheat can fall and harvested. It is good for nothing and gotten rid of. It doesn't have worth to its name.

**NARRITIVE**:

* Setting
* Character
* Conflict

Example: Matthew 17:1-13

* Setting:
  + High Mountain apart from the others, six days after Jesus' teaching on the mountain by the Sea of Galilee
* Characters: Jesus, Peter, James, John, Moses, Elijah, God
* Conflict: The building of the tabernacle. Jesus has already identified Himself as God by His power on many occasions. They are wanting to build a tabernacle for all three which would indicate a place of Worship. Verse 5 shows that Jesus is the only Son, the one who is pointed out by God.

WHEN YOU PREACH YOU ARE GOING FOR SIMPLE. **"SIMPLISTIC"** IS NOT THE GOAL, **"SIMPLE"** IS. IT IS NOT EASY

MARK 8:22-26

MIRACLE STORIES:

Found in every miracle story is…

* A need is established
* Jesus’ help is sought
* An expression of faith

**EXAMPLE: John 12:1-8**

Here are what makes a narrative and narrative.

* 1. They are built around…
     1. Setting: Bethany (not a safe place), at a dinner, six days before Passover (last week in His life)
     2. Characters: Jesus, Mary, Martha, Judas Iscariot, Lazarus
     3. Conflict: Judas vs. Mary, Jesus vs. Judas, Judas vs. Himself, Jesus vs. the poor, Judas vs. the poor, material vs. spiritual
        1. You do not have a story if you do not have conflict. Gen. 1-2 is a report because there is no conflict. Chapter three makes it a story.

When teaching a class, you want to keep in mind…

* 1. Observation:
  2. Interpretation:
  3. Application:

**Are there commentators who we could look at?**

* 1. Johnny Ramsey
  2. Wayne Jackson
  3. Leland Ryken \*Words of delight\*

**NOTE TAKING**

You need a second brain. A place you can put a quote or something else where you can put it and forget about it until you need it again. You need a place to collect articles and things of those kind.

* 1. App.raindrop.io
  2. Roam research
  3. Binder
  4. Pen/Pencil and Paper
  5. Notebook
  6. ANYTHING!

**HERMENEUTICS**

LUKE 19:1-10 "THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS"

Main Point of this passage: Luke 19:9-10 - "And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost"

Breakdown of the passage:

* 1. (1,2) *Jesus passes through the city of Jericho where there was a man named Zacchaeus*
     1. "Zacchaeus" means pure of innocent
  2. (3,4) *Zacchaeus seeks to see Jesus*
     1. To do so, he climbs up a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus
        1. Sycamore trees can get up to 98-130 ft. tall
  3. (5,6) *Jesus calls Zacchaeus to come down so he can receive Jesus into his house*
  4. *(7) The multitude grumbled against Jesus for being a guest of this man*
     1. Zacchaeus being a publican, he would have been hated by his own people and those from other nations as publicans worked for the Romans
  5. (8) *We see the true change in Zacchaeus* 
     1. Half of what he had, he gave to the poor.
     2. He also had enough to pay restitution to those he defrauded 400%
        1. The Law only required 20% (Lev. 5:16)
  6. *Conclusion of this passage:*
     1. This is a great story of change. Zacchaeus is a man to emulate if we are in need of turning our life to, or back to God.
  7. *How does this apply to the whole book?*
     1. Luke emphasizes that Jesus was THE God-man for ALL men (2:10,32).
        1. "Son of man" is found 26 times. Separate from "Son of God", this is emphasizing Jesus' humanity. The phrase simply means "human being".
        2. This is the same thing God calls Ezekiel, "son of man", although Jesus is **THE** Son of Man
     2. Luke stresses how Jesus looked at the "outcasts"
        1. Highlighting those who are looked at as sinners and not worth saving (5:30; 15:2; 19:7)
        2. Highlighting those who are physically and spiritually sick and need a physician (the blind, demon possessed, emotionally scarred)
     3. The word "save" occurs 17 times in the book of Luke
        1. Showing the emphasis on Jesus' desire to save US.
           1. Luke is called the "Gospel of Compassion" due to the kindness Jesus has towards those who are seen as uncared for, and unloved.

When we read the Gospel of Luke, we should put ourselves in the place of those who were in need. We were in the world at one point too, and when we were in the world, we were alone. We were those people who were the outcasts, we were those who, if we keep in our remembrance how human Jesus really was, we can see how much he sacrificed to save me, and to save you.

**PREACHING**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topical** | **Textual** | **Expository** |
| Text "A" | Text "A" | Text "A" |
| Text "B" | Text "B" | Text "B" |
| Text "C" | Text "C" | Text "C" |
| Text "D" | Text "D" | Text "D" |

TOPICAL:

* The thing that holds A, B, C,D together is the topic you are studying (ex. "homosexuality", "sin")

TEXTUAL

* A, B, C, D all have their points they make and are supported by other texts
* Most of the time you are not coming back to text to make your case in the sermon. Preachers preaching textually will use the primary text to springboard into other passages that illustrate their main points
* Example: 2 Timothy 2:1-6
  + There are three examples of enduring hardships
    - Soldier-->elaborate on the extent to which a soldier commits himself because he wants to please those who enrolled him
    - Athlete--> You can elaborate on those who take years or all their life to perform a one-two minute routine
    - Farmer--> You can elaborate on how they must prepare themselves and their field to reap the benefits of their crops.
  + To make this expository you need to have the reason for why this is there. It is because the point of all the is to suffer hardship for the proclamation of the Gospel.

EXPOSITORY

* ABCD all fit together and complement each other. Each part of the text may have subpoints that go along with it.
* How do these texts fit within this passage flow or relate with one another?
* How does this passage fit into the book?
* With expository preaching you camp on a chapter or paragraph
* These three are similar but expository preaching helps others understand what is going on inside the text you are reading and how it fits into the book and Bible as a whole.
* When you look at a text in its context you have found a more profound setting for the text than you would if you jumped into other topics
* Regarding the bringing in of other texts, you can bring in other passages if you cannot use the text to define what is in it. Romans 3:21-23 is an example, like "propitiation" for example. You cannot use Romans 3 to define propitiation. You need to use other passages to give a preliminary definition so the audience can understand what it means in the text of Romans.