

TheWordWorks

Expository Preaching Module 1

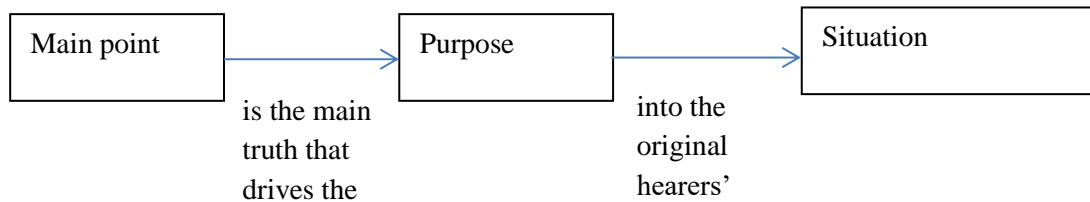
The Shape of an Expository Sermon

Aim of this module:

Learn the basic shape of an expository sermon

Recap (See Modules in “General Bible Handling Training”)

Expository preaching is preaching which teaches the author’s **main point** in order to achieve the author’s **purpose** in a **current day situation** similar to the situation of the original hearers



Part 1: Introduction - Describe the current day situation

Give people a reason to listen to the rest of the sermon by talking about the situation in their lives/their church that this passage will address.

“Do you struggle with a guilty conscience? A shady transaction at work? A one night stand? When a guilty conscience meets a coming judgment, it’s a terrifying thing. That’s why we desperately try different ways to deal with our guilt. One of the ways we do this is by being religious: Go on some holy pilgrimage, don’t eat meat, give to church.”

Transition from Part 1 to Part 2: *“If you’re in this situation, then you’ll know what the Hebrew Christians were feeling/thinking.....”*

Part 2: Show how the original situation is similar to the current day situation

The biblical author will apply truth to the original situation. So by showing how the current day situation is similar to the original situation, you’re giving people a heads up that the truths they are about to hear in the sermon are going to be relevant to them.

“They were new Christians. And they were tempted to return to and trust in Old Testament religion to ease their guilty conscience and avoid judgment. Old Testament religion was so tangible: sacrifice an animal and let its blood flow from the altar and voila! A clean slate again. If that’s not what deals with guilt, then what does?”

Transition from Part 2 to Part 3: *“That was the situation with the Hebrew Christians. And so the Hebrews author has one aim, one purpose in our passage today.....”*

Part 3: State the author's purpose

Stating the author's purpose (and therefore the sermon's purpose) upfront has the advantage of helping your hearers orient what they will hear in the main body of the sermon (i.e. the main point in Part 4) to this purpose.

"He wants them to hold fast to Jesus and not return to the old ways of dealing with guilt. He wants them to be assured that if they have Jesus, they have all they need for a clean conscience and so need not fear judgment"

Transition from Part 3 to Part 4: *"So, here's how the Hebrews author achieves his purpose. ..."*

Part 4: How author achieves his purpose (i.e. by teaching the Main point)

This is the main body of the sermon. The preacher teaches the author's main point in the same way/following the same logic as the author. That means largely explaining the verses in the order the author has arranged them.

"He shows the Hebrew Christians that Jesus' blood is better than the blood of animals shed under Old Testament religion. He gives 2 reasons why Jesus' blood is better.

First, Jesus' blood cleanses a person's conscience and brings them to God (Vs 1-15).....

Second, Jesus' blood pays for a broken covenant (Vs 16-28)..."

Transition from Part 4 to Part 5: *"So why is Jesus' blood better? (summary of main point follows) Because, #1, it deals with our internal problem of a guilty conscience. #2, it deals with our external problem of being covenant breakers facing God's judgement. So, if this is true, then the application for us is the same as it was for the Hebrew Christians...."*

Part 5: Drive home purpose into the current day situation as described in the introduction

Here is the application. This is the place where you finally resolve the tension/questions you raised in the introduction. You've reached the end point of the expository sermon where you're driving home the author's purpose into a current day situation. At this part, you might also want to give a real-life example of someone you know that's been impacted by these truths.

"(Purpose #1): Hold fast only to Jesus! He can deep cleanse your conscience from that shady transaction and that one night stand. Only Jesus' blood can deal with that. The fear of judgment. Only Jesus' blood can deal with that.

I knew a guy who was once so weighed down by his guilt...fear...terror....now joyful anticipation of Jesus' return.

(Purpose #2): Don't go back to your old ways of dealing with your guilt. Religion (rituals, church attendance, pilgrimages) doesn't work. Only Jesus' better blood can."

Other examples of sermon outlines which follow this basic shape

Example 1 – 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

Singleness is better than marriage

Paul's aim } State **author's purpose** (I opted to put this as first point as a way to show Paul's radical message and hook people in to listen more)

A hard message to hear } Flesh out the **current day situation**: People find it hard to be single

The Corinthian situation (Vs 25) } Describe **original situation**

Singleness is better than marriage

1. Because this world is passing away (Vs 26-27, 29-31)

2. Because of undivided devotion to Jesus (Vs 28, 32-35)

But we have freedom not to be single! (Vs 36-40)

Primary application (for singles): } Drive home the author's purpose into the current day situation

Secondary application (for married people): } This was a secondary application for married people to honour singleness. It's secondary because it's not Paul's purpose

Teach the **Main point**

Example 2 – Hebrews 8

A Better ministry that unlocks Better covenant promises

Are you sick of religion? } Flesh out the **current day situation**: People thinking they get an authentic relationship with God through external religion

The danger facing the Hebrew Christians } Describe **original situation**

The purpose of Hebrews } State **author's purpose**: Hold fast to Jesus! Ditch religion!

1. A better ministry... (Vs 1-6)

a. He's finished his work

b. He serves at the true tabernacle in heaven

2.that unlocks better new covenant promises (Vs 6-13)

a. The fault with the old covenant (Vs 6-9)

b. The better promises of the new covenant (Vs 10-13)

- A new nature that want to do God's will
- A new direct and personal relationship with God
- Forgiveness of sins

Hold fast to Jesus! Ditch religion! } Drive home the author's purpose into the current day situation

Teach the **Main point**

Example 3 – Isaiah 22

DIY Salvation

I can do it myself!

Flesh out the **current day situation**: People thinking they can secure their own salvation

Isaiah/God's purpose

State **author's purpose**: Demolish our self-sufficiency so we trust God alone

Israel's situation in 701 BC

Describe **original situation**

1. The present day partying problem! (Vs 1-2a)
2. The future day of God's judgment (Vs 2b-7)
3. The present day reason for judgment: Israel's DIY salvation! (Vs 8-14)
4. 2 examples (Vs 15-25)
 - a. Self-sufficient Shebna
 - b. Not sufficient Eliakim

Teach the
Main point

Can we do it ourselves?

Drive home the author's purpose into the current day situation