

**TheWordWorks**

# **Expository Preaching Module 1**

## **The Body of a Sermon**

## What goes into the body of the sermon?

### Aim of this module:

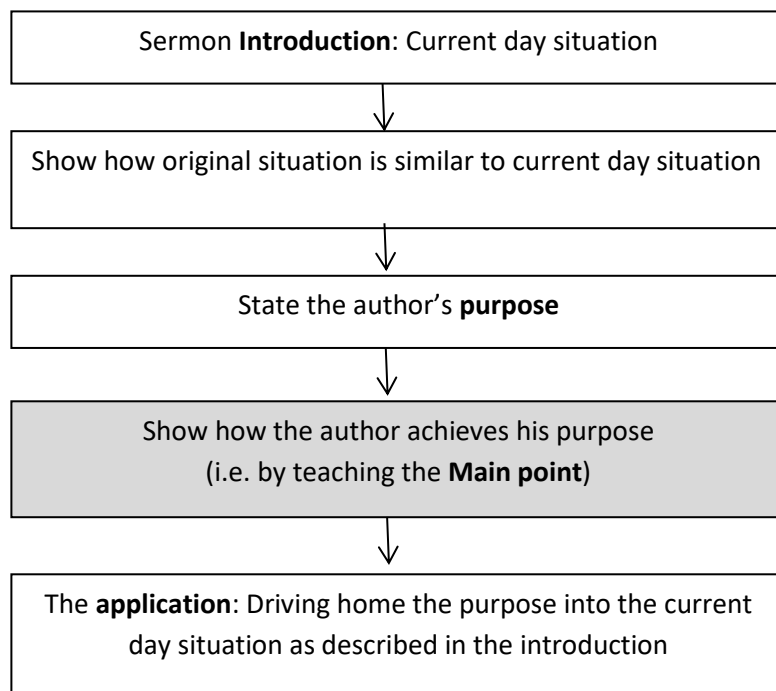
To understand what goes into the body of the sermon, how to make clear the relationship between sub-points in the main body and use a simple 4 step process to develop the sub-points

### Recap

See module “The shape of an expository sermon” and also Pg 7-8 (Integration) of module “Bible Handling Training Part 1”

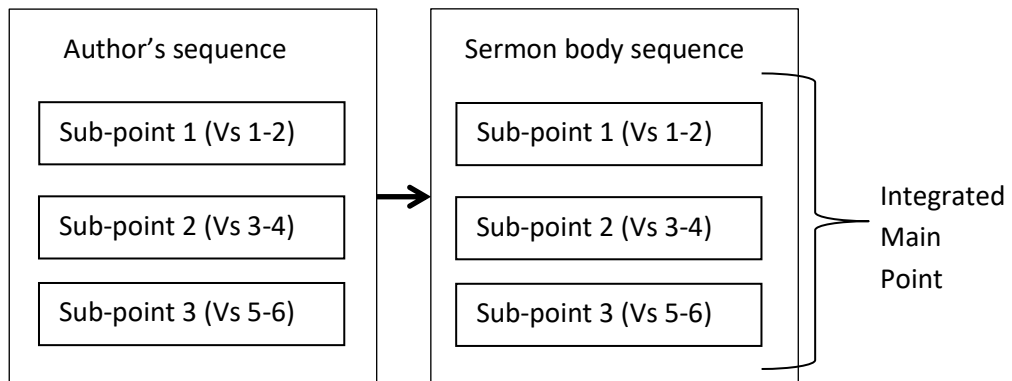
## What is the body of the sermon?

The body of the sermon is that part of the sermon where the main point is preached. It is box 4 in the diagram below:



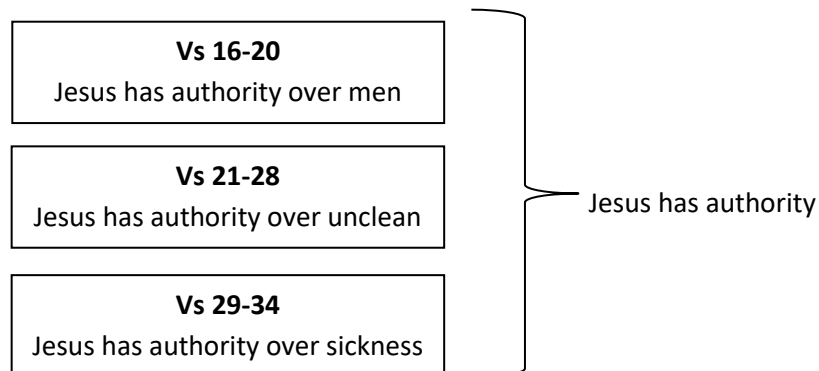
## How to teach the main point in the body of the sermon

1. The general principle is to follow the contours of the passage closely i.e. if the biblical author teaches the main point by teaching Sub-point 1 then 2 then 3 in that order<sup>1</sup>, the body of the sermon should also follow this same order. In expository preaching, we not only seek to teach the main point, we also seek to teach it **in the way that the biblical author teaches it**<sup>2</sup>. The integration of these sub-points then forms the main point.

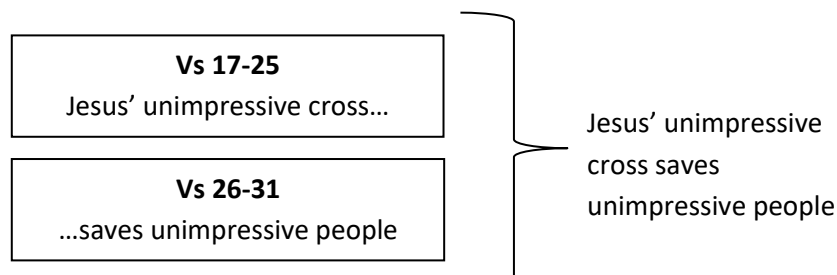


2. The various sub-points have a **logical relationship with each other**. The titles given to these sub-points in the sermon outline should reflect the relationship between them. Here are some examples:

- a. Mark 1:16-34 = Sub-points show the truth of the main point applied in different spheres



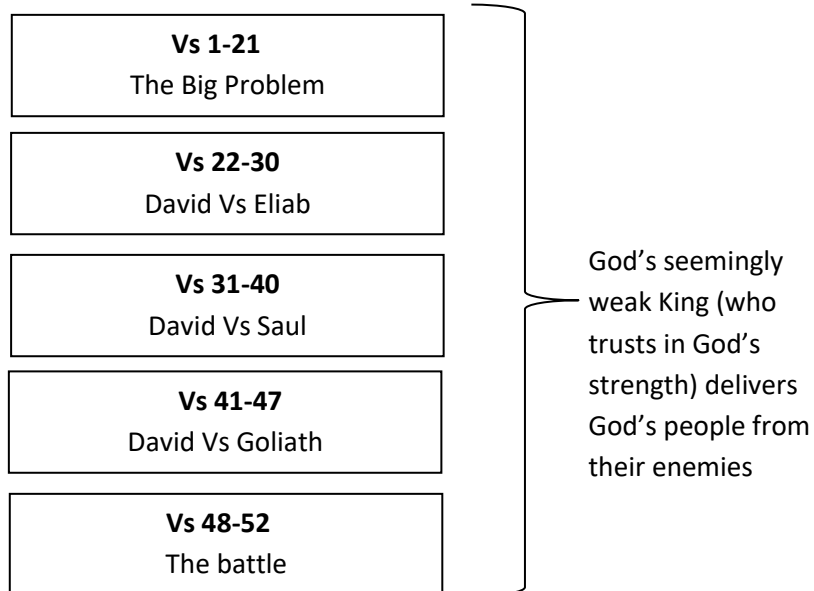
- b. 1 Corinthian 1:17-31 = Sub-point 1 shows the subject. Sub-point 2 shows what the subject does to the object.



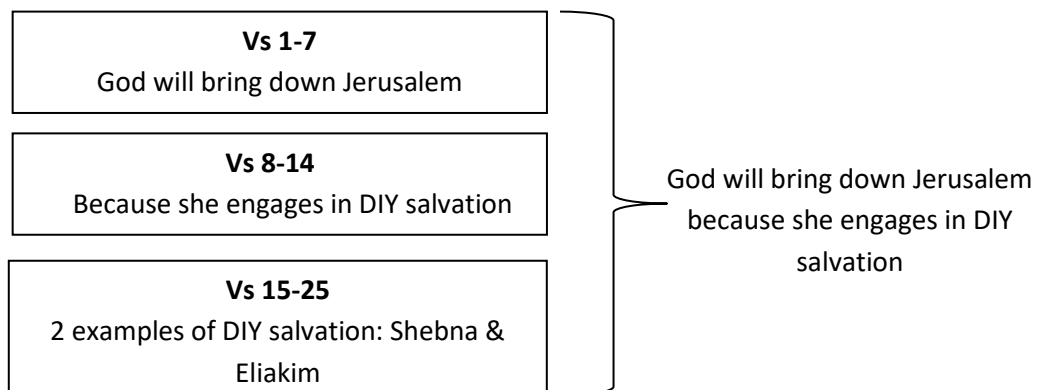
<sup>1</sup> See the Structure Tool on Page 4 of Module "Bible Handling Training Part 1" for how to divide the passage into sub-sections

<sup>2</sup> Expository preaching aims to expose the original author's mind. Following his thought process as he writes the different sub-points is part of faithfully doing this.

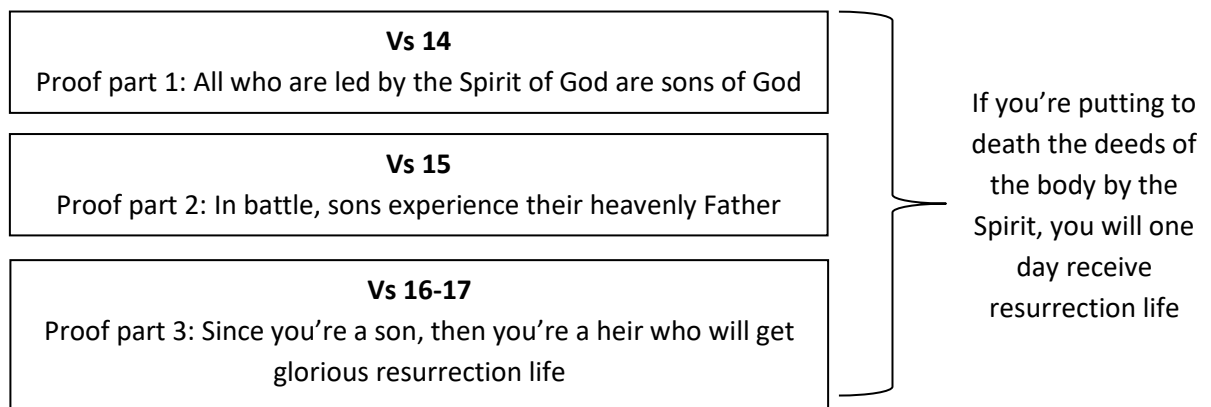
- c. 1 Samuel 17: Sub-points shows the different episodes in the narrative which contribute to the main point. The Big Problem is the enemy (Vs 1-21). The solution is the seemingly weak King who trusts in God's strength (this point is conveyed in David's 3 episodes with the 3 men). The outcome is victory in battle (Vs 48-52)



- d. Isaiah 22 – Sub-point 2 gives the reason for Sub-point 1. Sub-point 3 gives 2 examples of Sub-point 2. The sub-point titles reflect this relationship



- e. Romans 8:14-17 – The 3 sub-points together form a 3 part (If A then B, If B then C, If C then D) proof that those led by the Spirit to put to death the deeds of the body will one day receive resurrection life.



### 3. How to preach each sub-point<sup>3</sup>

There are 4 basic steps to take at each sub-point. Mark 1:16-20 is used as an example.

a. **State** the Point

Just state simply the point.

*“My first point is this: “Jesus has authority over men””*

b. **Show** the Point

Show your listeners where this point comes from in the passage.

*“We can see this from Vs 16-20.*

*Look at Vs 17. Jesus says to Simon and Andrew “Follow me”.*

*Immediately, in Vs 18, they follow him.*

*Later on in Vs 19, he sees another 2 men, James and John.*

*Look at Vs 20. He calls them.*

*And immediately they left their fishing boats to follow him”*

c. **Explain** the Point

Explain the significance of your observations above.

*“Jesus shows that he has authority over men because they men obey Jesus’ word.*

*They leave behind what is important to them, fishing, and they follow their new leader”*

d. **Illustrate** the Point

You have explained the point. Now you can illustrate your point.

Illustrations have 2 main functions: They give your hearers a mental break before you move on to your next point and they serve to clarify the point being made. Illustrations add colour to your sermon and helps your hearers to understand better the point being

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<sup>3</sup> The method outlined here is the method I learnt from the late John Chapman from his excellent book “Setting hearts on fire” <https://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/setting-hearts-on-fire>

made. For more training on giving good illustrations, see the Module “What makes an illustration effective?”<sup>4</sup>

If you have 3 sub-points in your talk (see 2a above), you will repeat this process (state, show, explain, illustrate) another 2 times.

**Exercise: Romans 8:18-30**

What would go into the body of this sermon? i.e. the main point and the sub-points that make up the main point. Have a go coming up with something similar to the examples given above in section 2 of this module. Compare it with what we came up with (on the next page).

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<sup>4</sup> To be published mid-October 2019

**TheWordWorks answer (by no means the final word!)**

**Vs 19-22**  
All creation groans in longing for future glory

**Vs 23-25**  
Christians groan in longing for future glory

**Vs 26-30**  
The Spirit groans in longing for future glory

Main point:  
Everything longs for  
future glory