

Shaping a Message

How do we move from personal Bible study to preparing a message that is biblical, clear, engaging, and relevant to our listeners? This session gives an overview of the steps from the study of the text to the shaping of the message.

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I. The Four ‘Locations’ of sermon preparation

Worked example - 1 Timothy 5:1-2

A. Location 1 - “The Study”

1. Passage Selection

2. Passage Study

3. Passage Purpose

4. Passage Idea

B. Location 2 - “The Prayer Place”

1. Pray over your own response to the passage

2. Pray for your listeners' response to the passage

3. Pray for God's heart for your listeners

C. Location 3 - "The Coffee Shop"

1. Message Purpose

2. Message Idea

3. Message Structure

- a. Deductive (Idea stated at the outset and proved)
- b. Inductive (Passage explored, concluding with the Idea)
- c. Question-Answered (providing the Idea)

4. Message Detail

- a. Introduction
- b. Body
 - i. Explain or illustrate (“What does this mean?”)
 - ii. Prove (“How is this true?”)
 - iii. Apply (“So what?”)
- c. Illustrate

D. Location 4 - “The Pulpit”

Suggested Readings:

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *“Preaching with Variety”* (Kregel)
Edwards, J. Kent *“Deep Preaching”* (B&H)
Robinson, Haddon W. *“Expository Preaching”* (IVP)
Stott, John *“Between Two Worlds”* (Eerdmans)
Sunukjian, Donald R. *“Invitation to Biblical Preaching”* (Kregel)