

Shaping a Message: From Idea to Message

This session gives an overview of the steps involved in shaping a message based on previous study of the text. Following the presentation, we will work in facilitated groups to apply the learning to a biblical text as we move from text to sermon.

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I. The Four 'Locations' of sermon preparation

Worked example – Matthew 1:18-25

A. Location 1 - "The Study"

1. Passage Selection ✓
2. Passage Study ✓
3. Passage Purpose ✓
4. Passage Idea ✓

B. Location 2 - "The Prayer Place"

C. Location 3 - "The Coffee Shop"

5. Message Purpose

6. Message Idea

7. Message Structure

- a. Deductive (Idea stated at the outset and repeatedly proved)
- b. Inductive (Passage explored, concluding with the Idea)
- c. Narrative (Combination)

8. Message Detail

- a. Introduction

- b. Body
 - i. Explain (“What does this mean?”)

 - ii. Prove (“How is this true?”)

 - iii. Apply (“So what?”)

- c. Conclusion

- d. Review

D. Location 4 - “The Pulpit”

Suggested Readings:

Arthurs, Jeffrey D. *“Preaching with Variety”* (Kregel)

Chappell, Bryan *“Christ-Centered Preaching”* (Baker)

Edwards, J. Kent *“Deep Preaching”* (B&H)

Mead, Peter “biblicalpreaching.net”

Robinson, Haddon W. *“Expository Preaching”* (IVP)

Stanley, Andy and Lane Jones *“Communicating for a Change”* (North Point Resources)

Stott, John *“Between Two Worlds”* (Eerdmans)