

Preaching the (Long) Narratives of John

Preachers tend to prefer pithy parables and simple stories from the life of Christ. Yet John's narratives can stretch on for dozens of verses and across chapter boundaries. How should the preacher handle the challenges of preaching from John's Gospel? As well as the lengthy narratives, what should we make of the prologue, the conversations, the thematic threads, and so on?

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I. Examples of John's Long Narratives

A. A year in the life . . . or . . . heading for death – John 5-12

B. Lots to show and tell – John 13-17

C. Lengthy individual narratives

II. Questions for the Preacher

A. Reading the text?

B. Telling the story?

C. Planning the series

1. John 5 as part of a series (eg. John in 4 or 5 parts?)

2. John 5 as a series (eg. John 5 over 3 weeks?)

III. John Specific Text Types

A. The prologue

B. The conversation

C. Interwoven themes