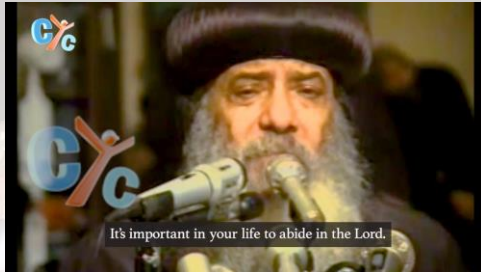


Preaching And Teaching I

What is Preaching



1

Outline

- † What is Preaching
- † Goal of Preaching
- † Who are the Preachers
- † The Importance of Preaching
- † When to Preach



2

What is Preaching

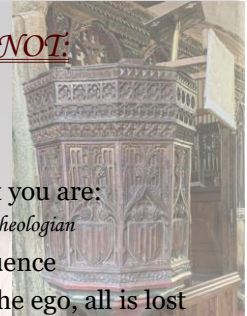
- † Preaching is not emotional speech
 - ✦ An edifying sermon.
- † Preaching is grounding/foundational
 - ✦ Influential - founded on: God, Bible, Fathers
 - ✦ Jesus: "Rabbi" - both preaching and teaching.
 - ✦ Apostles were teachers:
 - St. Peter's short speech converted 3000 people! (Acts 2)
 - "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine...." (1Tim 4:16)
- † Preaching is discipleship
 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them ..., teaching them to observe ..." (Matt 28:19)



3

Preaching is NOT:

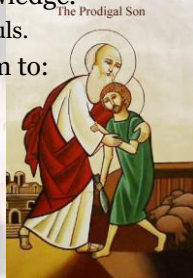
- † Display of Information
- † Expression of self
- † Convincing listeners that you are:
 - Knowledgeable, perceptive, theologian
- † Rhetoric: rhyming, eloquence
- † If preaching focuses on the ego, all is lost
 - ✦ No value, influence, spirituality
 - Better not to preach!



4

Goal of Preaching

- † An attempt to bring the listeners into the divine realm and divine knowledge.
 - ✦ For the sake of saving their souls.
- † Affecting people, to lead them to:
 - ✦ repentance
 - ✦ knowledge of God
 - ✦ spiritual life
- † If the goal is missed, preaching is useless



5

Who are the Preachers

- † The first patriarchs were teachers.
 - ✦ St. Athanasius, St. Cyril the Great, St. John Chrysostom, St. Severus of Antioch, St. Augustine...
- † All were effective preachers, laying down biblical as well as logical (reasonable) foundations.
 - ✦ St. Severus of Antioch: 3 homilies on Christ's genealogy
 - ✦ St. Athanasius: Incarnation
 - ✦ St. John Chrysostom: 67 on Genesis, 59 on the Psalms...
 - ✦ Depth in their preaching; attracted people.
- † Hear a sermon and leave feeling gained nothing:
 - ✦ lacks depth; full of words.



6

Clergymen are Preachers

- † All the ranks of the clergy
 - ✦ St. Stephen the Archdeacon – effective
 - ✦ *“They were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.” (Act 6:10)*
 - ✦ St. Ephrem the Syrian “the harp of the soul”,
 - *Wrote many hymns before ordained “reader”.*
 - ✦ St. Archdeacon Habib Girgis
- † A Preacher must have understanding.
 - ✦ Ordination Command of Anagnostes (reader):
 - ✦ *Learn the books of the Holy Bible one by one. Read with understanding, according to the Lord's commandment "let the reader understand". Preach the congregation.*

7

Importance of Preaching and Teaching

- † Provide Treasures
 - ✦ *“Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.” (Matt 13:52)*
- ✦ New: people feel they gained something
 - *Else they feel they wasted their time.*
- ✦ Old: applicable words for what's known
 - *HEMY: “We will always talk about the same topic: God!”*

8

Importance: Orthodox Preaching

- † Orthodox preaching includes:
 - ✦ Verses, Church history, Lives of saints, Dogma, Interpretations, Spirituality, Saying of the Fathers, Rites...
- † Preaching from the heart is effective
 - ✦ Not: memorized, read, repeated
- † Does not express personal views
 - ✦ Express the church teachings



9

Importance: Persuasion

- † Persuasion
 - ✦ Convincing people of a spiritual truth.
- † Two types of persuasion:
 - ✦ Biblical
 - *Verses that confirm the spirit of the topic*
 - *Detailed verses, elaboration on the meaning*
 - ✦ Intellectual
 - *Reasons, wisdom, purpose, results, causes...*
 - *“Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.” (Rom 14:5)*
 - *“You convinced my mind, but not my body”*

10

Persuasion Example - Anger

- † Biblical: verses, sayings:
 - ✦ *“The wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (James 1:20)*
- † Logical: explanations
 - ✦ Anger is a repulsive sin
 - ✦ Not acceptable by people
 - ✦ Reveals weakness – emotional person
 - ✦ Damage: hurtful, inappropriate words
 - ✦ Loss of relationships
- † Not just a verse; now the listener is filled.



11

When to Preach

- † All occasions:
 - ✦ Liturgy, class, weddings, celebrations, funerals, gatherings, work...
 - ✦ *“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.” (2Tim 4:2)*
 - *“Do you always talk about God?”*
- † Out of season: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.
- † *“Give us word of benefit”*
 - ✦ Small sermon: word of encouragement
 - *student preparing for a test, sick person in the hospital...*



12

When to Preach

- † Not just pulpit preaching; preach all the time
- † As Christ walked on the road:
 - ✦ *Consider the lilies of the field...*
 - ✦ *Look at the birds of the air...*
 - ✦ *Behold, a sower went out to sow...*
- † Words of God are always in the thoughts
 - ✦ constantly preaching, drawing from a well
 - ✦ *"Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you" (1Pet 3:15)*



13

Preaching and Teaching

- † What is preaching?
 - ✦ Grounding, influential, discipleship
- † What is NOT preaching?
 - ✦ Display of Information, expression of self
- † What is the goal of preaching?
 - ✦ Affecting people, to lead them to: repentance, knowledge of God, spiritual life
- † What is the importance of preaching?
 - ✦ Persuasion: Biblical, Logical
- † When to preach?
 - ✦ All the time: *in season and out of season*

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