

Exegesis Questions For Expository Preaching & Teaching

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Our prayer is to encounter Jesus Christ in and through his word, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Prior to beginning study, spend time seeking God for a text. Devotional reading and private prayer produce the greatest lessons and sermons. After prevailing in prayer, select a central text for exegesis and/or presentation and ask the following questions of the text.

1. Examine Various Translations

- A. What is the text and translation you will study?
- B. When you compare at least 4 translations, what are the biggest differences you note from the text?

2. Lexical Data and Grammar

- A. What key words of the text bring clarity?
- B. What did the author mean by these word(s) in each context?
- C. Does the original language reveal a clearer definition of certain words?
- D. Is there a different range of meaning for any key words in the text?

3. Historical Context

- A. What is the setting of this passage?
- B. What led up to this point in the passage?
- C. What comes after this passage?
- D. What is the main thought of the book of the Bible where your text is located?
- E. How does this passage relate to that main flow of thought?
- F. Are there parallel/similar passages elsewhere in the Bible?
- G. How do those passages relate to your selected text?
- H. Why do you think the author wrote this passage?
- I. What did the text mean to the original audience?
- J. What are the differences between the Biblical audience and us?
- K. What particular circumstances does the author address in this passage?
- L. What is the possible date the passage was written?
- M. Is the date relevant to the application? How?
- N. What are the most significant historical-cultural contexts?

4. Literary Context

- A. Where does the passage occur in the book?
- B. Does it complete, introduce or further describe a story?
- C. Why did God choose the author to write this text?
- D. Has this author written similar meaning texts elsewhere in scripture?

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5. Biblical Context

- A. What is the meaning of this passage?
- B. Is this passage mentioned elsewhere in the Bible? Where?
- C. What would be lost if this passage were not in the Bible?
- D. How is Jesus revealed in the text?

6. Theology

- A. How does this passage fit in with Christian Theology?
- B. Is it an Old Testament message or a message for the Old and New Testaments?
- C. What Theological issues are raised?
- D. How are those issues resolved?
- E. How does your text relate to loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 12:29-31)?
- F. How does this story fit into God's whole redemption story for mankind?
- G. How does this passage relate to the mission of God (Missio Dei)?

7. Secondary Literature

- A. What have others said about the passage?
- B. Do I agree or disagree with them?

8. Application

- A. What is God's central message (the one point) of the passage?
- B. What 3 questions does the Holy Spirit have us ask?
- C. What does the passage say about the needs of the hearers?
- D. To whom will this passage be presented?
- E. Who are the prominent people in the story?
- F. Who will the hearers most identify with in the story?
- G. What is the picture for the people?
- H. What is the most encouraging way this can be presented?
- I. What is the simplest way this can be presented?
- J. What is the most personal way this can be presented?
- K. What is the most interesting way this can be presented?
- L. What is God's "action plan" for me relating to His words in the text?
- M. What's in it for the hearers if they respond?
- N. How do I want the hearers to respond to the Holy Spirit?
- O. How will I invite them to respond?
- P. How will God help them to succeed when they respond?
- Q. How will I write the conclusion first, with the central message in view?