



Seven Keys to Faithful Proclamation

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Books: *SHE* and *John*

www.workingpreacher.org

www.enterthebible.org

FOH/COP

God Pause (www.luthersem.edu)

Resources

What is a good sermon?



Seven Keys to Faithful Proclamation

- Engage the Biblical Text
- Engage the Theological Imagination
- Engage the Many Contexts of Preaching
- Engage the Human Condition and God's Response
- Engage the Mind of the Listener
- Engage the Heart of the Listener
- Engage Orientation to Life in God's World



Engage the Biblical Text

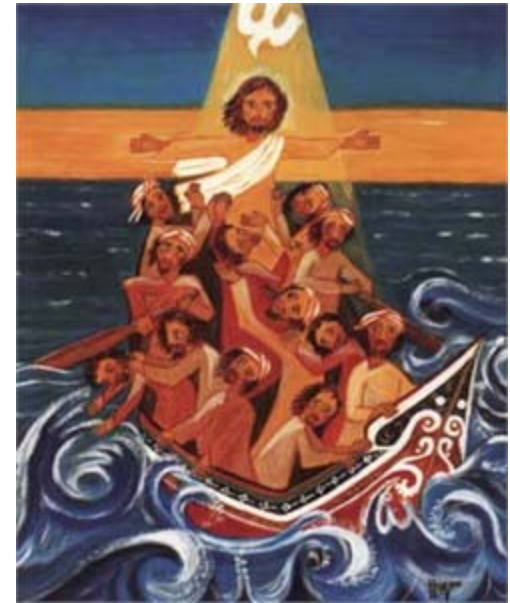
Is rigorous with regard to the specific voice of each biblical text and all of its particularities.



No “V8 Juice” Theology



What is Jesus' First Public Act in Each Gospel?



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Matthew 5-7: Sermon on the Mount



Mark 1:21-27
The Man with an Unclean Spirit



Luke 4:16-30: Rejection in Nazareth

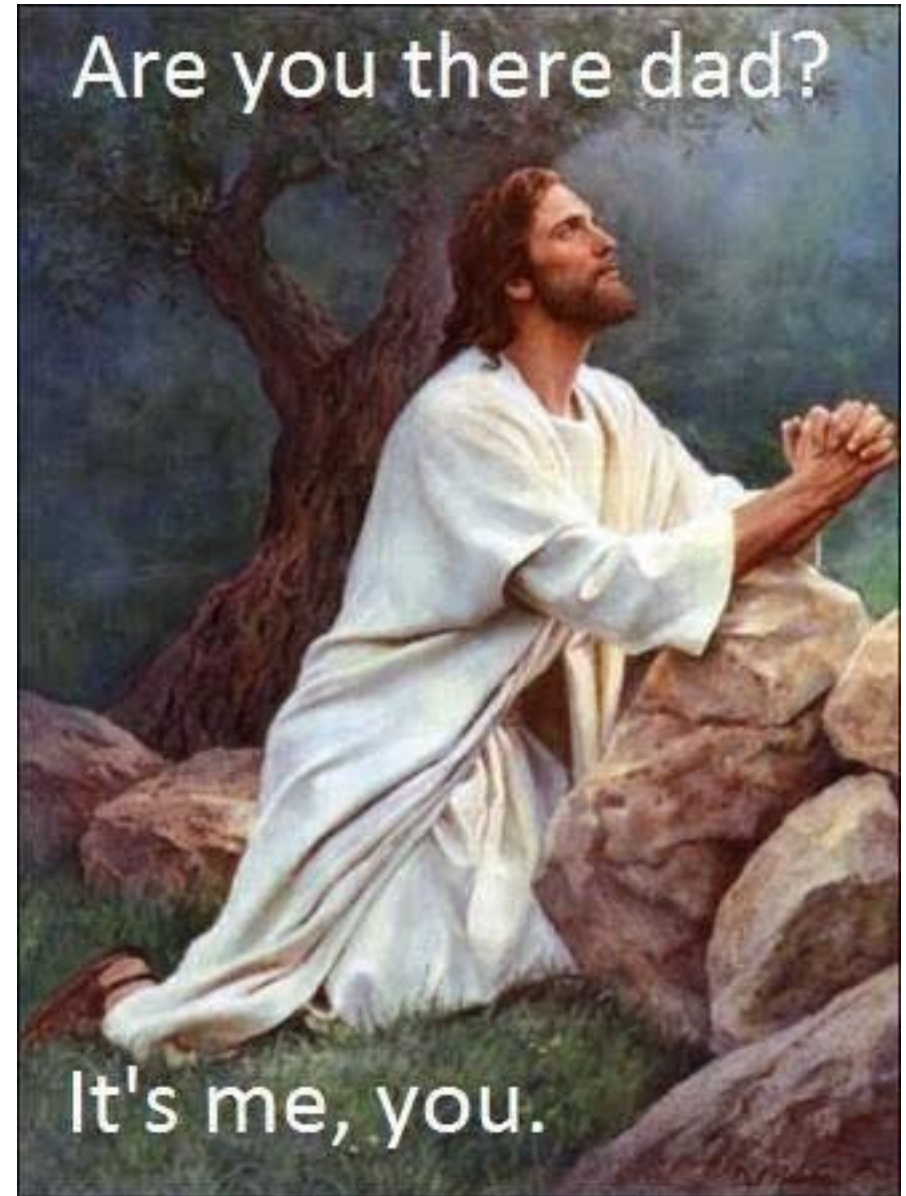


Alexandre Bida - Jesus rejected at Nazareth

Water into Wine



John 17

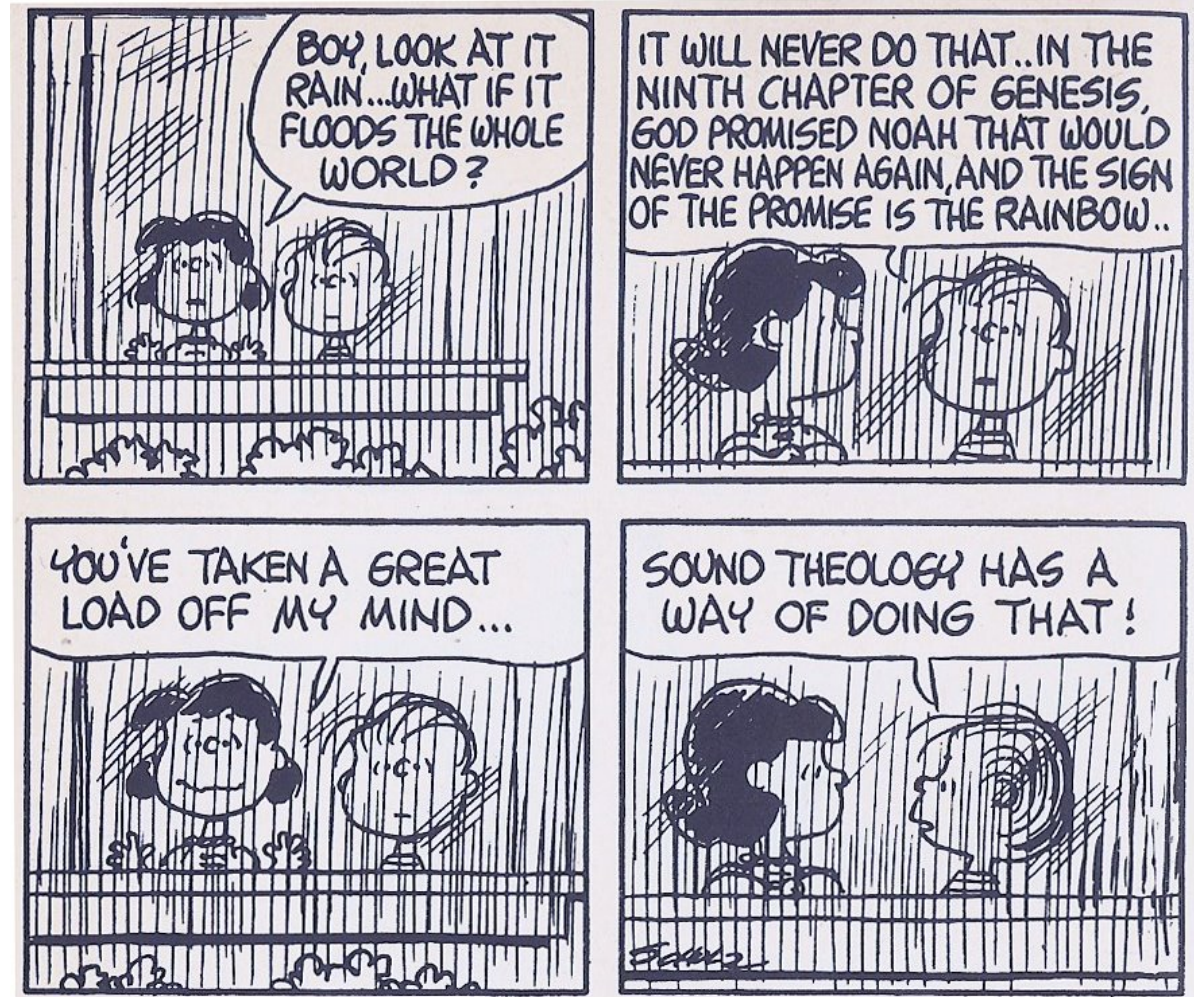


Engage the Theological Imagination

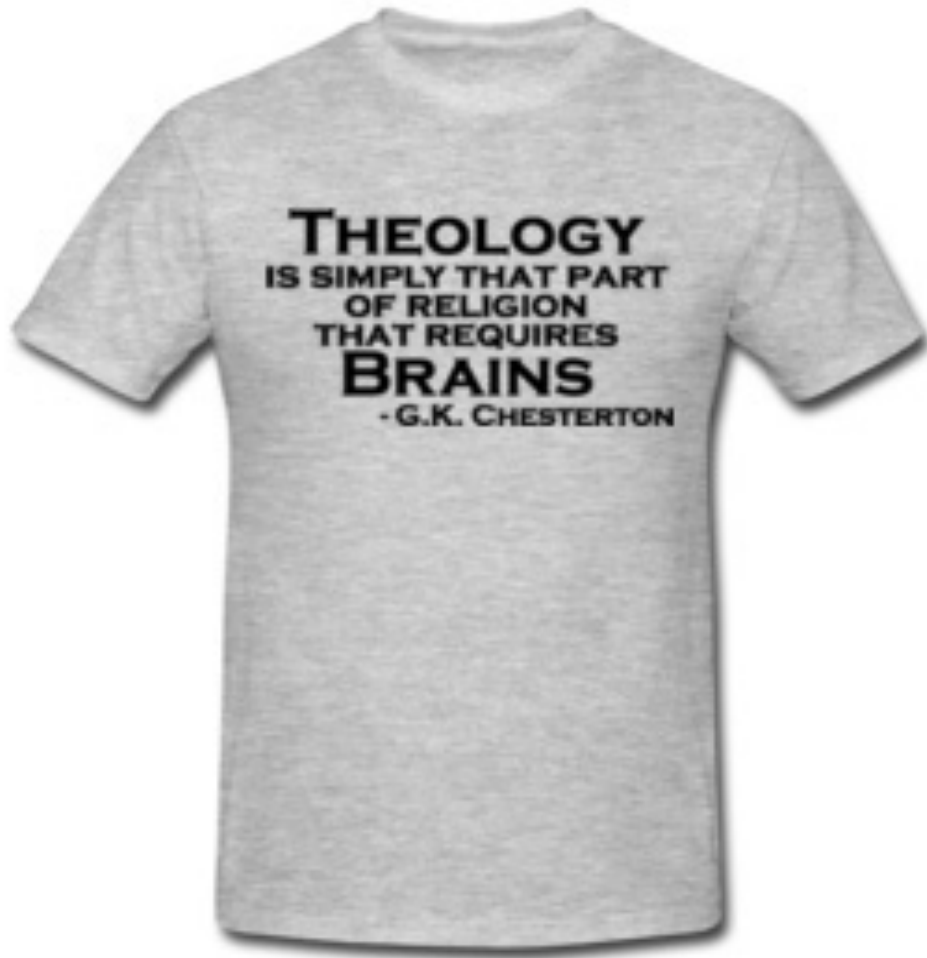
- ✓ Helps you see God's activity in the world.
- ✓ Helps you make sense of your world through a theological lens.
- ✓ Helps you see that God is God.



- Theology
- Christology
- Soteriology
- Pneumatology
- Eschatology
- Ecclesiology



Theology



❑ What is God up to?

❑ Who is God?

Christology



- ◆ **How does the text contribute to an understanding of the person and work of Christ?**
- ◆ **What has Christ done for us?**
- ◆ **What does Christ continue to do for us?**
- ◆ **What is the portrait of Christ that is being presented?**



²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Soteriology

- ◆ What does this text claim about our salvation or atonement?
- ◆ How does the text convey an understanding of salvation?
- ◆ What are the saving acts of God? (John 4:42)



Pneumatology



What does the
text say about Holy
Spirit?

Who or
what
is the
Holy
Spirit?

What is the Holy
Spirit up to?

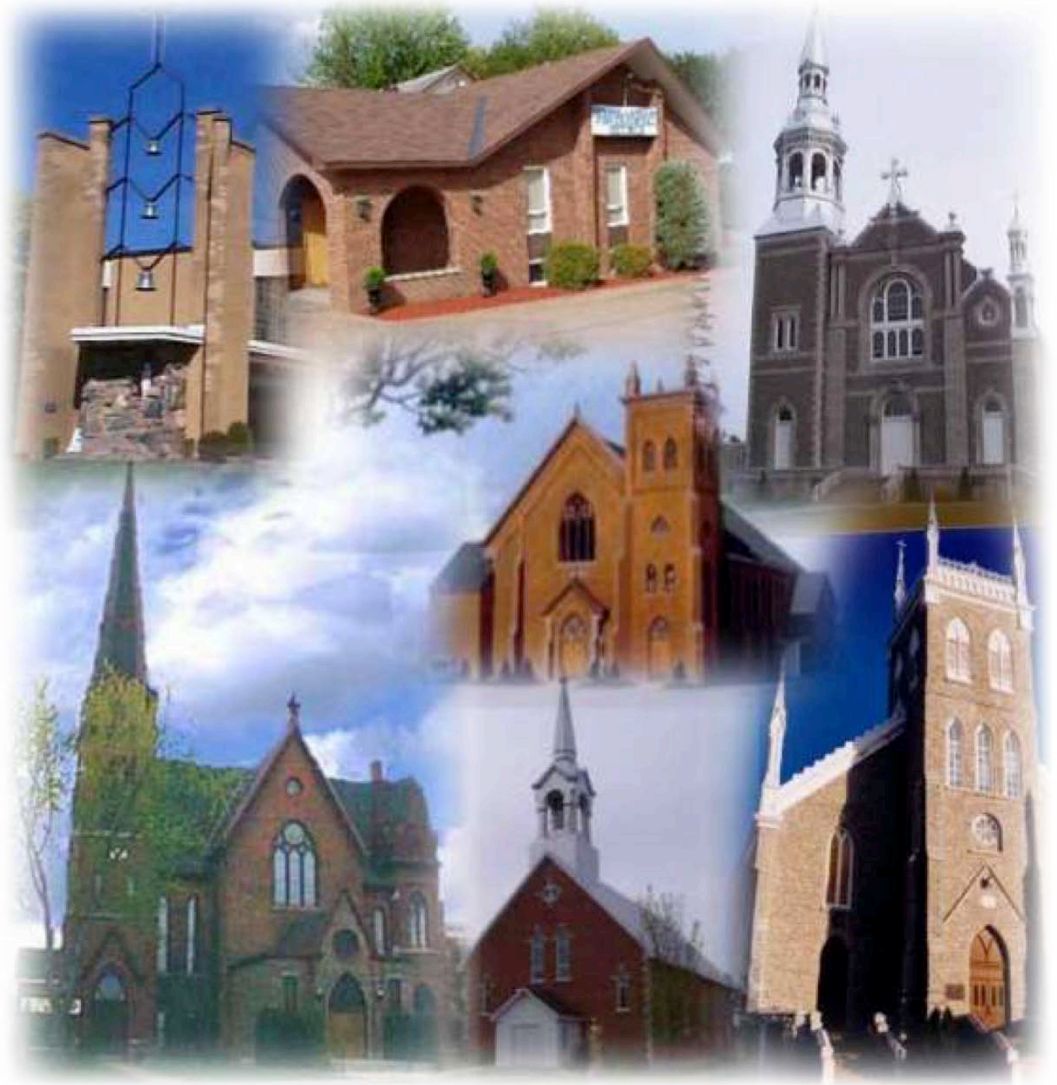
Eschatology

- ✧ What does this text say about the end times?
- ✧ What does this text communicate about our future life with God?
- ✧ “In my Father’s house, there are many...”



Ecclesiology

- ✓ What does the text communicate about the church?
- ✓ What is the nature or meaning of the church, the community of the faithful, the work of the church?
- ✓ What does it say about living as a community in Christ?



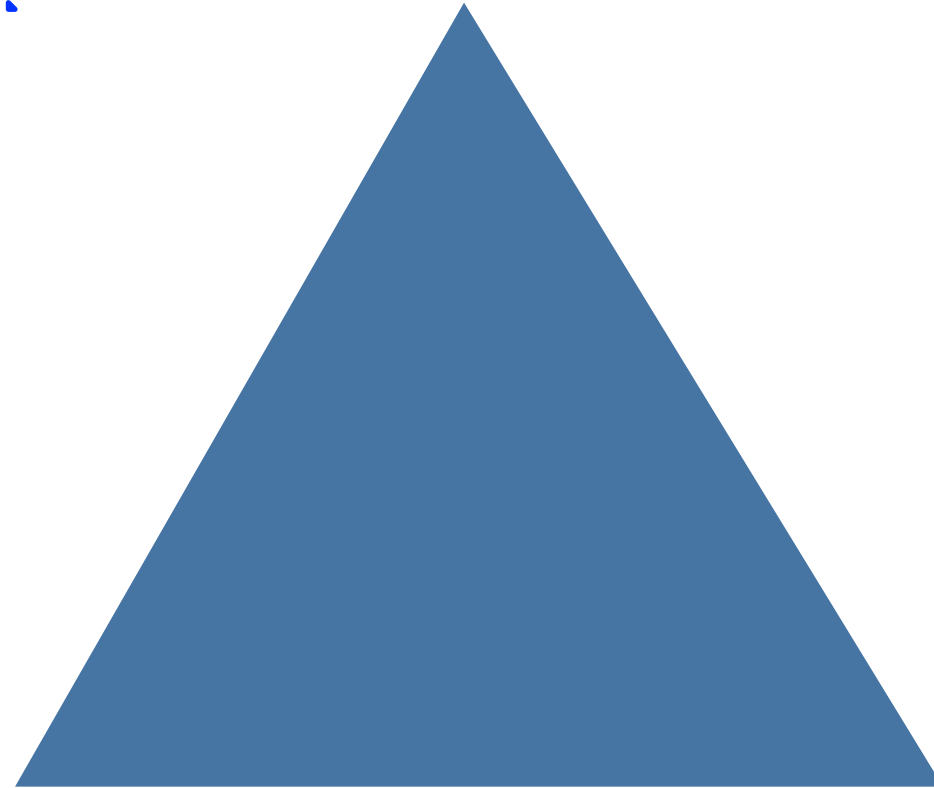
Engage the Many Contexts of the Sermon

- A great sermon given in the wrong place is not a great sermon.
- Who's the best preacher in America today?
- Local, national, global
 - Timely
 - Liturgical



The Preaching Triangle

Logos (text, Jesus)



**Pathos
(Congregation)**

**Ethos
(Preacher)**

Engage the Human Condition and God's Response

- ★ How does this text speak to the human condition?
- ★ Life situation commonly expressed in sin and evil
- ★ How does the text talk about our brokenness, fallenness or sin?
- ★ What are we in need of? What is God's answer?
- ★ Also a matter of social and cultural issues
- ★ Sin and goodness not just individual issues but cultural, communal, national, global



Engage the Mind of the Listener

- Form = clear, well-organized, easy to understand
- A point

Focus



Engage the Heart of the Listener

- ❖ Function
- ❖ Preaching as an art form. Aesthetic responsibility.
- ❖ Performance is not a bad thing – “I listen to beginning sermons. I am dying for entertainment.”
- ❖ Delivery
- ❖ “God, forgive us for making the Gospel boring.” Willimon



The Biblical Text as Aural/Oral Communication



- “residually oral” or “textualized orality”
- Written for the ear
- Repetition, rhythm, rhyme
- Melodies, echoes, resonances, reverberations
- Mutual interpretive possibilities (Mark 1 and 15)
- The **how** of the text communicates meaning as much as the **what**

So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. **And it was night.** (John 13:30)



Engage Orientation to Life in God's World

- ◆ What we are asked to do in the imperative arises from what God has already done. “God has done _____, therefore, we do _____.”
- ◆ Romans 15:7 (in urging Christian hospitality):
“Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” The imperative (welcoming others) is grounded in the indicative (Christ has welcomed you).
- ◆ What is our response to God's grace? How can we embody God's love in the world?

What is Biblical Preaching?

- *John 1:18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known*

