


Session 4.3
Outlines, Manuscripts
and Doing What Works



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

- Now we present the one-size-fits-all solution to sermon writing ...

Yeah, not really. It's more like this ...



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

• Basic steps in sermon prep ...

1. Read The Bible
2. Pray About The Passage
3. Read The Passage Again
4. Develop a Hermeneutical Proposition

A single sentence explaining what the passage of Scripture is about. What is the big idea of that section or story you're preaching?



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• Basic steps in sermon prep ...

5. Look At Other Sources
6. Correct Your Hermeneutical Proposition
7. Write a Homiletical Proposition

A single sentence explaining what the sermon is about. What is the big idea of your sermon that presents the big idea of the passage?



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• Basic steps in sermon prep ...

8. Write the Body of your sermon.
Explanation –
Argument –
Application –
Illustration –
9. Write the introduction.
10. Write the Conclusion.



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

- **Should you outline or manuscript?**

Jason uses a complete manuscript

Todd uses a detailed outline



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

- **Advantages to manuscripting:**

1. The process of writing aids preparation.
2. The more detailed your writing, the more detailed your preparation.
3. It aids in better style. (for example ...)



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I introduce to you Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, King of Tyre (I Kings 16:31), and wife of Ahab, the King of Israel -- a king's daughter and a king's wife, the evil genius at once of her dynasty and of her country. Infinitely more daring and reckless was she in her wickedness than was her wicked husband. Masterful, indomitable, implacable, a devout worshiper of Baal, she hated anyone and everyone who spoke against or refused to worship her pagan god. ... Most of that which is bad in all evil women found expression through this painted viper of Israel. ... This idolatrous daughter of an idolatrous king of an idolatrous people engaging with her maidens in worship unto Ashtoreth -- the personification of the most forbidding obscenity, uncleanness, and sensuality -- became the evil genius who wrought wreck, brought blight and devised death. She was the beautiful and malicious adder coiled upon the throne of the nation.

(R.G. Lee, "Payday Someday")



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• **Advantages to manuscripting:**

- 4. The details of the sermon remain after you're done preaching.
- 5. You can correct your thinking in advance.



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• **Advantages to manuscripting:**

- 6. You can have confidence saying more thought-provoking and challenging things.
- 7. It helps control your time.



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• **Disadvantages to manuscripting:**

- 1. You can lose personal contact with the congregation.
- 2. While it aids thinking, it can slow down your thinking also.
- 3. It takes a LOT more time!



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

• **Advantages to outlines:**

1. You can maintain eye contact.
2. You can “connect” with the congregation more easily.
3. You’re less likely to lose track of your place while preaching.



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

• **Advantages to outlines:**

4. It is faster to prepare than a manuscript.
5. It allows a greater proportion of prep time to be spent in Bible study.



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

• **Disadvantages to outlines:**

1. You might not forget what you want to say, but still forget how you want to say it.
2. It can lead to glibness, cliché or imprecise speech.



Outlines, Manuscripts, What Works

- **Tips for manuscript preaching:**

1. Write the way you talk.
2. Don't read your manuscript.
3. Read from your Bible.
4. Don't let your papers be a distraction.
5. Remain sensitive to the Spirit's leading.