

June 19-23, 2006. Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, 2481 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

THEOLOGICAL LENSES FOR BIBLE AND SERMON

Instructor: Paul Scott Wilson, Professor of Homiletics, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto. 416-585-4545 (o); 416-761-1791 (h); paul.wilson@utoronto.ca

Learning Goals

This course examines the importance of a theological reading of Scripture and a God-centered focus for creative preaching. The class will consider the strengths and limitations of both pre-modern and contemporary historical-critical biblical interpretation and will explore new ways of conceiving proclamation. The goals include:

- 1) to help preachers be creative and faithful;
- 2) to reassess interpretative methods for preaching;
- 3) to learn how to move beyond teaching in the sermon to proclaiming;
- 4) to explore practical sermon sub-forms that assist in God-centered preaching, and;
- 5) to reclaim something of the joyousness of the good news and of sharing the faith in a postmodern age.

Course Method

Sixteen ninety-minute sessions will be offered over five days. Class time will include *presentations* by the instructor and students, *discussion* of these presentations and the assigned reading material, and *preaching* by student participants with feedback. Note that coursework is not complete until the sermon manuscript and the accompanying reflection paper have been submitted to the instructor in the fall.

Schedule

June 19	The Literal Meaning of a Text 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
June 20	Theological Lenses for Reading Scripture; The Gospel and the Biblical Text 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
June 21	Teaching and Proclamation; Sermon Sub-forms 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
June 22	Proclamation 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.
June 23	Proclamation 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Requirements

1) *Students are to have completed all the reading plus the first assignment by June 19, 2006.*
Read Barbara Brown Taylor's sermons with the purpose of identifying exactly what is the good news of each sermon and what is her theme sentence.

2) Class attendance and participation.

3) Be ready from the first class with a two page presentation. Students with last names beginning with A-C are to write on the subject of allegory in the Bible; D-K on allegorical interpretation of the Bible; L-R on typology in the Bible; and S-Z on typological interpretation of the Bible (see Greidanus and Davis in the bibliography or a good dictionary of the Bible for extra help).

4) Bring to the course a recent or new sermon that you will revise according to class teachings and then preach (all or a portion of it, depending upon the student numbers and the time available) to the class.

5) One new sermon manuscript that you will write and submit by November 1, 2006 that will demonstrate the following: (1) making God the focus; (2) employing some of the following the following sermon sub-forms discussed in class: *testimony (praise; narrative of thanksgiving); exhortation (of the nurturing kind); invocation; proclamation, and celebration (hymnic; call and response)*; (3) 'echoes' from the cross and canon (i.e. appropriate typology). Submission may be via email directly to the instructor.

6) A 3-5 page reflection paper based on the above sermon and that considers the items listed above in #5 and your own attempts to be more creative and joyous in proclamation. Submission may be via email directly to the instructor.

PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Reading:

Mitchell, Henry H. *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. Abingdon Press, 1990.

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *Bread of Angels*. Cambridge and Boston: Cowley Publications, 1997.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Highly Recommended:

Braaten, Carl E. and Robert W. Jenson. *Reclaiming the Bible for the Church*. Grand Rapids and Cambridge, U.K.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.

Davis, Ellen F., *Wondrous Depth : Preaching the Old Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. 162 p.

LaRue, Cleophus James., ed. *Power in the Pulpit: How America's Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Louisville & London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.

Lose, David. *Confessing Jesus Christ: Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1993.

Goldingay, John. *Models for Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995.

Greidanus, Sidney. *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament: A Contemporary Hermeneutical Method*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

McKim, Donald K. *The Bible in Theology and Preaching: How Preachers Use Scripture*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.

Also Relevant:

Burnett, Richard E. *Karl Barth's Theological Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.

Campbell, Charles L. *Preaching Jesus: New Directions for Homiletics in Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.

Kim, Eunjoo Mary. *Preaching the Presence of God: A Homiletic from an Asian American Perspective*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2000.

Long, Thomas G. and Edward Farley, eds. *Preaching as a Theological Task: Word, Gospel, Scripture*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1996.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *The Drama of Doctrine: A Canonical Linguistic Approach to Christian Theology*. Louisville: WJKP, 2005.

Wilson, Paul Scott. *Preaching and Homiletical Theory*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2004.