

# **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

## **Continuing Education Course**

**Valley Forge Christian College Branch Campus  
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania**

**Sessions: February 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>; Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm**

### **HOMB 640 Imaginative Communication**

**Dr. Kevin M Brennan**

**Spring 2011**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The intention of this course is to educate and equip the student with the tools necessary to communicate biblical truth more effectively utilizing the power of imagination. Through the use of reading assignments, projects, and in-class instruction, the student will be challenged to both understand the role imagination plays in communicating theological concepts, as well as how to practically implement imagination as a tool in the art of preparing and delivering messages that are grounded in biblical truth.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will be able to identify multiple scriptural examples of how imagination was used in a variety of contexts to communicate theological truth.
2. The student will gain an in-depth understanding of how tools such as cable television, radio, internet streaming, video clips, sound effects, drama, props, lighting, and presentation software can be used to communicate biblical truth in imaginative ways, as well as their proper use.
3. The student will provide examples of how some of these tools would be utilized in two sermons they will develop for the class.
4. The student will develop an enriched understanding of the use of imagination in developing, and delivering, a first person narrative, and will present a shortened version of a first person narrative during class time.
5. The student will gain a working knowledge of a theology of preaching based on the calling of the prophet Jeremiah, found in Jeremiah 15:15-21, and the role that imagination plays within the context of that calling. The student will be asked to study, and report on, specific examples from the life of Jeremiah which demonstrate how that theology of preaching was implemented in his ministry.

6. The student will be introduced to a paradigm of sermon preparation utilizing concepts grounded in Haddon Robinson's, *Biblical Preaching*, and will be expected to provide examples of how they would apply that paradigm to specific passages of scripture.
7. The student will be instructed on how to write a full sermon manuscript, and techniques for memorizing that manuscript. They will be expected to deliver their messages without the aid of their manuscript.

### **TEXTBOOKS and COURSE MATERIALS**

Edwards, J. Kent. 2005. *Effective First Person Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan. **ISBN-10:** 0310263093 \$29.99

Mathewson, Steve. 2002. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books. **ISBN-10:** 0801022967 \$26.00

Robinson, Haddon. 2001. *Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Michigan: Baker Books. **ISBN-10:** 0801022622 \$21.99

Robinson, Torrey W. 2003. *It's All In How You Tell It: Preaching First Person Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books. **ISBN-10:** 0801091500 \$14.99

Walsh, John. 2003. *The Art of Storytelling: Easy Steps To Preparing An Unforgettable Story*. Chicago, Illinois: Moody Publishers. **ISBN-10:** 0802433065 \$16.99

Wiersbe, Warren W. 1994. *Preaching and Teaching With Imagination*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books. **ISBN-10:** 9994507923 \$20.00

### **METHODOLOGY**

The course will consist of pre-session, in-session, and post-session work. Classroom time will be devoted to lecture, interactive discussion, as well as the presentation and critiquing of messages delivered by the students.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Be sure to bring your Bible and all textbooks to class.

#### **Pre-Session**

A. Pre-Session Assignment #1 (Due one week prior to class- January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011; 10% of grade)

- 1.) Read both Kent Edwards, *Effective First Person Biblical Preaching*; or Torrey Robinson's, *It's All In How You Tell It*.

- 2.) Provide a statement that you have read the two books in their entirety (slightly more than 300 pages).
- 3.) Choose a biblical character you would use for a first-person message. Write out in it's entirety a script for your character that would take approximately 15 minutes to deliver. Use the seven messages provided in the Appendix to Robinson's book as a guideline.
- 4.) On a separate page list the Sermon Idea; Subject; Compliment; Purpose; and Stance for your first-person narrative. Use the seven messages provided in the Appendix to Torrey Robinson's book as a guideline. You will be delivering your narrative toward the end of the in-session work.

**B. Pre-Session Assignment # 2 (Due by first day of class, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10% of grade)**

- 1.) Write a 5-7 page exegesis paper on Jeremiah 15:15-21. The paper should include discussion of the historical setting of the passage; it's place in the book of Jeremiah; and highlight significant grammatical, and textual issues.
- 2.) Write a one page paper providing a rough outline of a sermon you might preach from this passage. Include what you consider to be the main idea, and how that main idea would be expressed in terms of subject and compliment (see Haddon Robinson's, *Biblical Preaching*, chapters 2 & 3)

**In-Session**

It is expected that each student demonstrate active engagement with the class subject matter throughout the in-session module. This will be done by active listening, as well as interaction with the teacher, and other students (10 % of grade).

Each student will be expected to present their first-person narrative by the end of the in-session module. This presentation will be critiqued by the other students, under the leadership of the teacher. Only the teacher's assessment will count toward the final grade (20% of grade). The grade will be based on the following:

- A clear demonstration that proper exegesis was done on the biblical text.
- The main idea of the individual's story is clearly understood.
- How the main idea could be applied in a contemporary setting should be presented near the end of the first-person narrative (see examples in the Appendix of Torrey Robinson's, *It's All In How You Tell It*).
- The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes in length, and should demonstrate thorough memorization of the manuscript (prepared for the pre-session assignment #1).
- While not required, a costume and/or props are encouraged to enhance the presentation.

## Post-Session

### A. Post-Session Assignment # 1 (20% of grade)

- 1.) Using the research already completed for the preparation of the first-person narrative pre-session assignment #1, the student shall write a full sermon manuscript based on that same biblical character. On a separate page list the main idea of your sermon; how that main idea would be expressed in terms of subject and compliment (see Haddon Robinson's, *Biblical Preaching*, chapters 2 & 3); and what need in your listeners does the main idea address.
- 2.) Preach your sermon, preferably within the context of a church service, or you may also deliver your first person narrative within that same context, along with an additional 10 minutes of an abbreviated teaching gleaned from your manuscript. Make a video, or audio, recording of your message for submission.
- 3.) Using the preaching feedback form provided for you during the in-session module, ask for five individuals to provide feedback for your sermon and submit these forms along with your audio/video clip. It would be best if audio and video files could be sent as attachments or as links.

### B. Post-Session Assignment # 2 (10% of grade)

- 1.) Read *The Art of Storytelling* by John Walsh. Based on the principals outlined in the book, write 5 separate stories, each taking up a full page, single space, Times Roman #12 font.
- 2.) Each story should come from a different source: a.) current events; b.) a personal story from the student's life; c.) a story from the life of someone the student knows personally; d.) a story from recent history (e.g. an event that occurred within the last 200 years); e.) a story from ancient history.
- 3.) On a separate page, in one sentence, answer the following questions for each story: What is the biblical truth demonstrated by the story? What passage of scripture illustrates this truth? What aspect of the nature of God does the story address? How does the story highlight the human condition? What kind of response should this story evoke from the listener? The result of this project is that the student will have produced five introductions to future messages.

### C. Post-Session Assignment #3 (10% of grade)

- 1.) Read *Preaching and Teaching With Imagination* by Wiersbe. Write a 6-8 page paper based on section II, Imagination and Scripture.
- 2.) Give an example of the use of pictures and imagination in each genre of scripture cited in chapters 9-16.
- 3.) Compare and contrast how the use of pictures and imagination differs from one genre to the other. Comment on how understanding these differences

will impact both your interpretation of these passages, as well as the sermons you would deliver based on those passages.

- 4.) Based on the use of imagination within these various biblical contexts, the student should illustrate the implications for the modern preacher and their use of imagination in their contemporary setting.

#### D. Post-Session Assignment #4 (10% of grade)

- 1.) Read *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative* by Mathewson.
- 2.) The student will choose an Old Testament narrative passage and following Mathewson's chapter flow, the student will write a 4-5 page reflection paper outlining how they moved from text to concept, and the from concept to sermon.
- 3.) The student shall then write a full sermon manuscript based on that same narrative passage which illustrates the influence of Mathewson's work.
- 4.) On a separate page outline the main idea; the subject and compliment; and what need is being addressed.

DUE DATE: All Post-Session assignments are due 60 days from end of the Spring semester. All assignment and can be submitted via email.

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#### GRADING PROCEDURE

Grading expectation will be according to graduate level work.

#### **SELECTED PREACHING RESOURCES**

Achtemeir, Elizabeth. *Creative Preaching*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1980.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Preaching as Theology and Art*. Nashville: Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1980.

Adams, J.E. *Preaching with Purpose: the Urgent Task of Homiletics*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.

Bennett, Bill. *Thirty Minutes to Raise the Dead*. Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishing House, 1991.

Blomberg, Craig. *Interpreting the Parables*. Downer Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1990.

- Bodey, Richard Allen. *If I Had Only One Sermon to Preach*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1994.
- Braga, James. *How to Prepare Bible Messages*. Portland, Oregon: Multnomah Press, 1981.
- Brooks, Phillips. *The Joy of Preaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Kregel Publications, 1989.
- Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching: Redeeming the Expository Sermon*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1994.
- Chartier, Myron R. *Preaching as Communication*. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1981.
- Davis, H. Grady. *Design for Preaching*. Philadelphia, Penn.: Fortress Press, 1958.
- Dodd, C.H. *The Parables of the Kingdom*. New York, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961.
- Duduit, Michael, ed. *Handbook of Contemporary Preaching*. Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman Press, 1992.
- Duduit, Michael, ed. *Communicate with Power*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1996.
- Fasol, Al. *Essentials for Biblical Preaching: An Introduction to Basic Sermon Preparation*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1989.
- Fee, Gordon and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.
- Galli, Mark and Craig Larson. *Preaching that Connects*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994.
- Green, Joel. *How to Read Prophecy*. Downer Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1984.
- Greidnaus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text: Interpreting and Preaching Biblical Literature*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. Eerdmans, 1988.
- Goldsworthy, Graeme. *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000.
- Henderson, David. *Culture Shift: Communicating God's Truth to Our Changing World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1998.
- Hughes, Philip. *Interpreting Parables*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing, 1980.

Hunter, Archibald. *Interpreting the Parables*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: The Westminster Press, 1960.

Hybels et. Al. *Mastering Contemporary Preaching*. Portland, OR: Multnomah.

Jensen, Richard. *Thinking in Story*. Lima, Ohio: CSS Publishing Company, 1993.

Johnston, Graham. *Preaching to a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001.

Kaiser, Walter C. *Toward an Exegetical Theology: Biblical Exegesis for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1981.

Kamphauz, Franz. *The Gospels for Preachers and Teachers*. Waco, Texas: Sheed and Word, 1974.

Lewis, Ralph L. *Inductive Preaching*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1987.

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. *Preaching and Preachers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1986.

Loscalzo, Craig. *Apologetic Preaching: Proclaiming Christ to a Postmodern World*. Downer Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Lowry, Eugene L. *How to Preach a Parable: Designs for Narrative Sermons*. Nashville, Tennessee, Abingdon Press, 1989.

Lowry, Eugene L. *The Homiletic Plot*. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1980.

MacArthur, John and the Master's Seminary Faculty. *Rediscovering Expository Preaching*. Dallas, Texas: Word Publishing, 1992.

Mathewson, Steven. *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2002.

McDill, Wayne. *The Twelve Essentials Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.

Miller, Calvin. *The Sermon Maker: Tales of a Transformed Preacher*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2002.

Miller, Calvin. *The Empowered Communicator*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1983.

Nichols, J. Randall. *Building the Word*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1980.

- Olford, Stephen. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman, 1998.
- Pitt-Watson, Ian. *Preaching: a Kind of Folly*. Philadelphia, PA: Westminster Press, 1978.
- Robinson, Haddon. *Biblical Preaching, second edition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 2001.
- Scroggie, Graham. *A Guide to the Gospels*. Old Tappan, New Jersey: Fleming Revell un.
- Stein, Robert. *An Introduction to the Parables*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: The Westminster Press, 1981.
- Stewart, James S. *Heralds of God*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: 1977.
- Stott, John R.W. *Between Two Worlds*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Vines, Jerry. *A Guide to Effective Sermon Delivery*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1986.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *A Practical Guide to Sermon Preparation*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1985.
- Wiersbe, Warren. *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination: A Quest for Biblical Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1994.
- Wiersbe, Warren and David Wiersbe. *The Dynamics of Preaching*. Grand Rapids: Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.
- Wiersbe, Warren. *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1994.
- Whitesell, Faris D. *Great Expository Sermons*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., n.