

Hello. /We will begin the fourteenth lecture on homiletics. /This will be our last lecture on homiletics. /Today we will study **chapter 7, delivering the sermon**. /What remains most powerfully in the hearts of the congregation once the sermon is over?

/According to studies, the preacher's gestures and voice tone leave a lasting impact on the congregation, more than the contents of what the preacher preached.

/This is because the psychology of the congregation can be by the preacher's attitude and expressions whether he is sincere about what he preaches. /Experts of verbal communication claim, "A person observes a speaker's attitude, gestures and such, more than the words of the speaker, and then the person makes a judgment on whether or not the speaker is being truthful or not."

/Researchers of lies say, "A person can tell whether the opposite party is lying or telling the truth through the movement of their eyes, facial expressions, and hand gestures."

/Genuine conversations are possible when one's words are consistent with his character, and others will then trust him. /Pastors must study ways to successfully deliver God's word before he goes up on the pulpit as a preacher.

/However, as preachers, our characters must be upright and truthful before God and before we begin to preach God's word. /The preacher's character must be shown through his sermon.

/When the preacher's character is consistent with the words he speaks, his expressions and gestures will come naturally. /The congregation will see his expressions and gestures, and think, "This preacher is speaking the truth."

/Therefore, before we study ways to deliver sermons, we must first make sure that we preach with sincere characters. /When the preacher preaches with a sincere character, he will move and plant assurance in the congregation.

/Hence, when the preacher prays for his sermon before going up on the pulpit, he must pray to God that he would deliver sincere words. /Therefore, all you who are studying homiletics must first become upright in character with God's word.

/When we do so, the Holy Spirit will work powerfully when we preach God's word. /I pray that you will become preachers who are truthful in character. /Now then, let's discuss how to **preach the sermon**.

/Preaching is the deliverance of God's word with our voices. /John the Baptist said that he was the voice of one calling in the desert. /He was the voice that delivered Jesus, the Word.

/The voice is the instrument that delivers the contents of the Bible. /When we study the biblical text, we prepare God's word. /When we have prepared God's word, we must then

study ways to effectively deliver God's word.

/In our last lecture, we studied ways to structure the sermon, which consisted of preparing what to preach. /At this time, we will study ways to deliver or preach the sermon.

/If the preacher has well-prepared contents for his sermon but failed to effectively deliver them to the congregation, then the congregation will not understand nor will they be blessed. /If there is a problem in delivering the sermon, he will have ultimately failed.

/Deliverance of the sermon is extremely important. Then what are some things we must watch out for to properly deliver sermons?

/First, we must not read the copy of the sermon as if we were reading a book. /Sermons are not lectures that pass on knowledge. /Sermons penetrate the hearts of the congregation. /The purpose of preaching God's word is to teach and rebuke, set straight, and teach righteously.

/In order for the preacher to convey such affections, he must not simply recite his sermon. /If a preacher reads his written sermon, it means that the sermon is not in his heart.

/If the sermon is not in his heart, then there is no way that the contents of the sermon would be delivered to the hearts of the congregation. /Therefore, after the preacher writes out his sermon, he must strive to make the sermon completely his possession.

/He must look over his sermon and read over it several times. /He must have his sermon almost memorized. /However, this does not mean that the preacher must simply memorize the words of his written sermon.

/He must write the written sermon on his heart. /God's word must become his spiritual possession. /When he does this, he will not be seized by the sermon but will speak freely.

/When the preacher can speak freely, the Holy Spirit will give him new grace when he stands on the pulpit. /When the Holy Spirit gives him new grace from God, the preacher himself will be blessed along with the congregation.

/Sermons are given in a set time and space. /The flow of the sermon must flow smoothly as waters flow. /In order for there to be a smooth flow, there is the need to make appropriate marks on the written sermon.

/There is the need to mark important word. /There is also the need to mark places where the preacher would take a short pause. /These marks are like traffic lights of the sermon.

/When there are marks on the written sermon, the preacher will not recite the sermon, but will preach smoothly like smoothly flowing water. **/Second**, the preacher must control his voice. /The words we speak consist of words and sentences.

/There are meanings in the words and sentences. /However, there is also the voice or sound that adds to the words and sentences. /There are high and low, long and short, and loud and small sounds.

/There are also pauses between the sounds. /When these elements of sounds are appropriately expressed, it will convey emotions from within.

/When the preacher expresses the contents of his sermon through his voice, he must appropriately express them in order to display his emotions. /In order for him to do so, he must speak in both high and low tones.

/He must also speak loudly to emphasize certain points. /He must also speak softly as if whispering, to set the mood. /The congregation will grow tired if the preacher speaks only in a high tone.

/The congregation will grow frustrated if the preacher continuously speaks in a low voice. /The congregation will most likely fall asleep if the preacher spoke without a mixture of high and low tones. /Therefore, the preacher must properly control his voice and tone so that he might effectively deliver God's word. /The preacher must also control the speed of his speech.

/If he speaks too quickly, the congregation will not be able to follow his sermon. /If the preacher speaks too slowly, the congregation will lose focus. /Thus, the preacher must appropriately control his speed and breathing in accordance with the contents of his sermon.

/Beginning preachers usually speak quickly. /When they begin to speak quickly, their voices become high-pitched. /Hence, beginners must stand in front of a mirror with a recorder on, and practice as if they were actually preaching.

/We must also think and study how we can effectively deliver God's word, and also how we can move the hearts of the congregation. /We must also discover our own problems and strive to improve ourselves.

/There are times when a preacher might stand on the pulpit to preach and his mind would go blank. /Hence, it is advisable that preachers practice and prepare their sermons before they actually preach.

/**Third**, the preacher must properly use the effects of pauses in sermons. /His sentences should transition well, but it is also important for him to pause between his sentences. /However, beginning preachers tend to be afraid to stop talking.

/They feel that they need to continuously talk because they are preachers. /They believe that it is wrong to stop talking as preachers. /Because of such thoughts, there are times when the preacher continuously pours out word from his mouth.

/He also continuously talks about any control of his thoughts. /When he continuously talks, he will say unnecessary things. /There will be times when he will say strange and weird things.

/Some preachers unnecessarily and continuously add, “Amen” and “Hallelujah” in his sermons. /“Amen” and “Hallelujah” are not terms that we use when we get stuck in our sermons.

/Such unnecessary words in the sermon will be distracting. /Therefore, we preachers must learn to effectively pause between sentences.

/Appropriate silence will make the congregation think and feel, and will make them respond to the sermon. /In order to make the congregation respond, the preacher must continue to look at the congregation during pauses.

/When the preacher looks at the congregation, they will feel tension in the sermon. /Moments of silence will also help the congregation concentrate better on the sermon. /Hence, skilled preachers are not afraid to pause in their sermons.

/Skilled preachers know how to use pauses for effect. /Therefore, preachers must strive to become skilled preachers who can control their speech.

/**Fourth**, preachers must not create voices. /This means that they must not speak with fake voices. /When the preacher speaks, he must speak in a natural tone. /When he speaks, he can speak with his natural voice.

/Yet, some preachers imitate others or speak in voices that they normally do not speak in. /Preachers are not actors or voice actors. /The congregation will put their trust in the preacher and his sermons when he speaks naturally with his own voice.

/As servants of God’s word, we must not rely on artificial ways and methods, but must wholly use the spiritual gifts that have been given to us. /When we imitate other people’s voices, we wear other people’s clothes. /When this happens, we will not be ourselves.

/The congregation will realize that at some point. /Thus, we must not create voices. /**Fifth**, /preachers must not forget to make eye contact with the congregation. /They must make eye contact as they preach.

/Our eyes must make contact with the eyes of the congregation. /The second important thing when delivering the sermon, the first being words, is to make eye contact. /Messages are delivered through the preacher’s eyes to the congregation’s eyes.

/The preacher must remember that his sermons are delivered through his own eyes. /We must also be able to read the congregation’s reactions through their eyes.

/When the preacher makes eye contact with each person on the congregation, they will

feel that the preacher is preaching to them. /When they feel that the preacher is looking directly at them, they will focus and listen to God's word.

/Skilled preachers are able to read the congregation's reactions well when they look at their eyes. /We will be able to read whether the congregation understands the sermon, or whether they are interested in the sermon or not.

/Then we can adjust the flow of the sermon by their reactions. /Hence, the preacher must strive to make eye contact with the congregation from the beginning of their sermon until the end.

/In some cases, we preach before many people. /When a preacher stands before a large group of people, he might be confused as to whom he must make eye contact with. /However, as a preacher, he must think, "I am preaching God's word," as he looks upon each person who is listening to him.

/We must believe that we are preaching to each person, and we must make sure that we look to all believers in every corner of the sanctuary. /When there is eye contact, the congregation will feel that the preacher is delivering God's word directly to them.

/Sixth, /we must be careful to control our emotions. /The preacher must not be overly controlled by human emotions.

/The preacher must pierce the spirits of the congregation through God's word. /They must be pierced by God's word. /It is not right for the preacher to rebuke the congregation.

/It is not right for him to show his anger by rebuking the congregation. /We must also not cry tears like actors do to express sadness.

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/However, the preacher's natural expression of emotions that comes from the sermon will lead the congregation to God's word. /Sometimes, preachers often sing hymns during their sermons.

/Hymns that correlate with the sermons will have a great effect. /However, it is not acceptable to always sing praises in the middle of sermons. **/Seventh,** /preachers must use suitable amounts of gestures.

/It is natural for a preacher to make gestures as he preaches. /The preacher will also be comfortable when he makes natural gestures. /Natural gestures will also emphasize the preacher's words.

/The preacher will not only speak with words but with his whole body. /Therefore, suitable gestures will support his sermon. /Sometimes, there is the need to use big and powerful gestures as a preacher.

/When the preacher's heart is in accord with the sermon, his movements and gestures will come naturally. /However, it is not suitable for the preacher to use gestures similar to actors or comedians.

/Unnecessary movements will distract the congregation. /There are times when the preacher unknowingly makes unnecessary movements. /Such unnecessary movements will make the preacher appear thoughtless.

/On the other hand, it is also not good to appear stiff or stand with one's hands in his pockets.

/Eighth, /preachers must be neat in attire and appearance. /The preacher's abilities are not determined by his appearance. /He does not become a better preacher by wearing better clothes.

/However, a preacher must appear neat and clean before his congregation so that they are not distracted when they hear God's word. /Preachers must keep their dignities as those who deliver God's word.

/We are not born with a sense of style. /The preacher must find interest and strive to solve the problem himself. /As pastors, we must observe the levels of lifestyles of believers, and we must dress accordingly.

/In recent times, there have been people who believed that the authority of the sermon should be at the same level as that of the congregation. /As a result, preachers stood on the pulpit in simple clothes such as t-shirts and jeans.

/This is not proper attire for those who preach God's word. /Before the preacher thinks about standing before a congregation, he must remember that he is standing before God.

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/After the pastor gives his sermon, he ends with a **closing prayer**. /There are things we must consider regarding the closing prayer.

/It is best to pray a brief closing prayer while keeping the theme of the sermon in mind. /Now, the sermon is over. /Yet, this is not the end. /The preacher must now prepare for the next sermon.

/He must think about his past sermons, and he must reflect on ways he can improve his sermons. /We call this, **reflection of the sermon**. /The preacher must reflect on his sermon after he has given the sermon.

/One good way to do this is to record or videotape his sermons. /Preachers must do this because they need to prepare for their next sermons.

/Many preachers become stubborn. /Many become arrogant and do not even consider making improvements to their sermons. /They believe that they are the best at giving sermons, and they become satisfied with themselves.

/Therefore, good preachers take heed of criticism. /They do not make excuses when others criticize them, and they strive to make improvements.

/You are all people who preach God's word. /I pray that you will work hard, and that you would become God's great servants.

/With this we will conclude the last lecture on homiletics. /Thank you.