



A Biblical Vision For A Healthy Local Church
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A Strong Preaching & Teaching Ministry Model

The Call to Preaching & Teaching (part 2)

In our continuing series within a series, we are camping out for several weeks on a Biblical Vision for a Strong Preaching & Teaching Ministry Model. The line-up goes like this:

1. The **Captain** of Preaching & Teaching

The magnitude and scope of the ministry of Jesus: God communicating God!

2. The **Call to Preaching / Teaching**

The Divine Call (Jer 23 ...unfolding in Acts 3-6)

Because Jesus preached God, therefore those He calls also preach God in Him!

3. The **Content** of Preaching & Teaching

One God, One Savior, One message, Two Words

Law: always and only demands, never gives

Gospel: always and only gives, never demands

4. The **Creation** of Preaching & Teaching

Law producing Repentance + Gospel creating faith = The New Birth!

- Here, the ultimate goal of all preaching & teaching is to bring people to worship God. *Preaching and Teaching about Jesus exists because worship of Jesus doesn't!*

5. The **Connection** of Preaching & Teaching

Effects of regeneration upon the soul unto obedience of faith and good works

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Call To Preaching & Teaching

Jeremiah 23:1-8 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. (2) Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: "You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. (3) Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. (4) I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

*(5) "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (6) In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: **'The LORD is our righteousness.'***

(7) "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,' (8) but 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' Then they shall dwell in their own land."

And then...

*Jeremiah 23:24-32 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. (25) I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' (26) How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, (27) who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? (28) Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. (29) Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? (30) Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who steal my words from one another. (31) Behold, I am against the prophets, declares the LORD, who use their tongues and declare, 'declares the LORD.' (32) Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, **when I did not send them or charge them.** So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.*

As we continue to survey the scriptures and build a Biblical case, a Biblical vision, for a strong preaching & teaching ministry model, let's pick up where we left off last week. A quick 7 days ago we began to look at the CALL to the preaching and teaching ministry of the apostles in the opening chapters of Acts. We have underscored the massive magnitude and scope - the gargantuan impact - of the life of Jesus upon the nation of Israel in His day...to both Jews & gentiles, upon His closest followers, His Apostles & disciples... and through them, now upon the multitudes of those across the nations that are gathered in Jerusalem as recorded in Acts chapter 2.

What Jesus began to do & teach in Luke, what He charged in The Great Commission (MT 28) He is now continuing, by His Spirit, through His followers, in Acts. He has commissioned them to carry on His ministry. He has summoned them to this task...He has anointed them for this purpose...so here in Acts 2...

...A sudden sound like a mighty rushing wind filled the entire house where the Jesus followers were gathered in prayerful devotion to Him! Divided tongues of fire resting upon them, and an ability to speak a language never learned! Truly, as the text tells us... “...there came from heaven...” something big!

Peter gave a big rationale for the supposed drunkenness of his friends in his mighty OT filled, Jesus-focused sermon that pierced to the heart and converted some 3,000+ souls that day! ***“Preaching exists because worship doesn’t”***...but now, through this anointed message about this Jesus, worship of Jesus is now an unexpected reality of these converts...and they now taste and see that the Lord is good in His beautiful forgiveness of their horrendous sin of killing the Author of Life! He is alive! He is risen! (*you reply: He is risen indeed!*)

And because of the sheer grace of God, He forgives them, saves them and brings them to know, enjoy and worship Himself! O, what a gospel!

Off to Acts 3, as we see more clearly into this Divine call to preach and teach Jesus...where a lame beggar gets more... and better... than he deserves...or expects...

Peter **addresses** this poor invalid and speaks life to his dead limbs saying:

Acts 3:6 But Peter **said**, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

Now, as one might expect, this kind of thing can draw a crowd, who comes rushing and marveling at Peter & company...ready to “name a feast after them” as if it is about the messenger and not THE MESSAGE!

Peter once again, under divine inspiration, walking in the call to preach & teach in the Name of Jesus, brings another “hear ye, hear ye” announcement:

NOTICE: Peter addressed the people
Acts 3. 11-26 (READ)

Acts 3:11-26 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. (12) And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? (13) The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. (14) But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, (15) and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. (16) And his name--by faith in his name--has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. (17) "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. (18) But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. (19) Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, (20) that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, (21) whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. (22) Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. (23) And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'" (24) And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. (25) You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, "And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'" (26) God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Notice the contents of this message: Jesus the focus in the OT!

- The God of our fathers...glorified His Son!
- Jesus is the Holy & Righteous One!
- Jesus is The Author of Life!
- Jesus: Suffered, Killed (crucified) and rose from the dead! As foretold by the mouth of all the prophets!
- Jesus with His people: times of refreshing from the Presence of the Lord and may send the Christ to you!
- Jesus: Restorer of all things
- Moses speaks of Jesus
- Prophets from Samuel on spoke of Him and the events occurring
- Abraham proclaims Jesus!

"If our preaching does not center on Jesus Christ--from Genesis to Revelation--no matter how good or helpful, it is not a proclamation of God's Word." - Michael S. Horton

Now you have 5,000 + people...saved and loving Jesus because they realize He first loved them and gave Himself for them...forgives them and blesses them!

....SO LET THE OPPOSITION BEGIN! (Against this Divine Call...)

Acts 4:1-4 And as they were **speaking to the people**, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, (2) greatly annoyed because they were **teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead**. (3) And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. (4) But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

They are pulled in by the authorities and charged not to preach & teach any more about Jesus!

Acts 4:17-20 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." (18) So they called them and charged them not to **speak or teach** at all in the name of Jesus. (19) But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, (20) for we cannot but **speak of what we have seen and heard**."

As preaching and teaching about Jesus continues and all sorts of miracles are taking place in town, they are now arrested and thrown in jail.

Acts 5:19-21 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, (20) "Go and stand in the temple and **speak** to the people **all the words of this Life**." (21) And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to **teach**.

So they are freed again to preach and teach the whole counsel of God in the gospel of Jesus:

Act 5:30-32 The God of our fathers **raised Jesus**, whom you **killed** by hanging him on a tree. (31) God **exalted** him at his right hand as **Leader(Master, Lord)** and **Savior**, to give **repentance** to Israel and **forgiveness of sins**. (32) And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Act 5:40-42 and when they had called in the apostles, they **beat them** and charged them **not to speak** in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (41) Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. (42) And every day, in the temple and from house to house, **they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ**.

Like Jesus, like friends...

Biblical priority of preaching & teaching

Act 6:2-4 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "**It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.** (3) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. (4) **But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.**"

Their priority was the proclamation of the gospel...and to prayer that God would mercifully and powerfully reveal what is proclaimed & taught to others in increasing measure!

As Paul reminds the Corinthian church:

1Co 15:1-4 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, (2) and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. (3) **For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,**

This is the call of God for his pastor friend, Timothy, as he implores him:

2Ti 2:2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2Ti 4:1-5 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: (2) Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (3) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (4) They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (5) But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

In all of this preaching & teaching ministry, Jesus is made known! He is the goal, the focus, the One we preach & teach.

Joh 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

So remember, we proclaim Christ by word and deed:

"Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."

- St. Francis of Assisi (Founder of the Franciscan order, 1181-1226)

Col 4:2-6 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. (3) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word,

- (WORD) to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison-- (4) that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.
- (ACTION) (5) Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. (6) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. (3) And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

whether you are a mouth, like Paul, or the hands, like Barnabus & the servants in Acts 6...you preach and teach

conclusion

In Jesus, we are struck dumb, stunned by large things, not small things...

By His power we are brought to see, savor, to enjoy, to relish in and share the glorious magnitude of heavenly, spiritual realities...truth!

And some of our greatest temptations are seeing what is really really big, weighty and beautiful...as small, petty, trite, mechanical and frivolous.

We here @ HCC desire not to remain too long on the surface, but to plumb the depths and the grandeur of our God and the magnificence of the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us!

He is the gospel! He is our message...and a Biblical Vision for a healthy local church possesses a strong preaching & teaching ministry model as the God-given engine that drives the life of the fellowship.



So Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. (29) Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Jeremiah 23:28-29

AMEN!