

“We Proclaim the Word”

Sermon Notes

➤ **Mound Free Church...every Sunday morning always expect the articulation and exposition of Holy Scripture**

**In our public Lord's Day worship gatherings, may we never fail to...*

1. Read the word (1 Timothy 4:13; Nehemiah 8:8; Luke 4:16-20; Acts 13:15, 27; 15:21; 2 Corinthians 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Colossians 4:16; Revelation 1:3; 22:18-19)

2. Preach the word (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

Next Week: “We Identify As God’s People”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the week of September 22nd-28th

This week in our series “Worship By the Book” we’re exploring the role of the word of God in our weekly worship gatherings. The focus of Sunday’s sermon was reading and preaching the word. But how often do we consider what it means to hear the word? In this study, with the help of a wonderful little resource called: Listen Up! A Practical Guide to Listening to Sermons by Christopher Ash¹, we plan to do just that. So take some time this week in your personal devotions, family worship time, or community group gathering to reflect carefully on what follows so that we might all better heed our Lord’s command to:

“Take care, then, how you hear.” (Luke 8:18)

As we begin our study, read carefully through the words of Jesus in Luke 8:4-18. How rarely we consider what’s actually happening when our hearts engage with the word of God. What startles you about this passage? What sobers you? What encourages you? Does this incline you to want to increasingly grow to “Take care, then, how you hear”?

Seven Ingredients for Healthy Sermon Listening

Read through these seven ingredients, exploring the texts that accompany each one as you go. Which ingredients strike you as particularly relevant to you right now?

1. Expect God to speak (1 Peter 1:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 4:11).

¹ Christopher Ash, *Listen Up! A Practical Guide to Listening to Sermons*. The Good Book Company. 2009.

2. Admit that God knows better than you (Isaiah 66:2; 2 Timothy 4:3; Hebrews 4:12-13; James 1:18-21; Luke 11:45).
3. Check that the preacher says what the passage says (Acts 17:11; 2 Peter 3:14-18).
4. Hear the sermon in church (Deuteronomy 4:10; Nehemiah 8:1).
5. Be there week by week (Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Peter 1:12-15).
6. Do what the Bible says (James 1:22-25; Luke 8:15; John 15:5).
7. Do what the Bible says today - and rejoice! (Deuteronomy 30:15; Psalm 95:7-8; Hebrews 3:7-4:13)

How to Listen to Bad Sermons

1. How to listen to a dull sermon (Acts 20:7-12)
Gratefully. Humbly. Well-caffeinated.
2. How to listen to a biblically inadequate sermon (Acts 18:24-28)
Discerningly. Patiently. Prepared to offer constructive criticism.
3. How to listen to a heretical sermon (2 Peter 2)
Don't..unless in an effort to engage in serious apologetics with a false teacher.

Seven Suggestions for Encouraging Healthy Preaching

1. Pray for the preachers.
2. From time to time, tell the preachers you are praying for them.
3. Be there.
4. Thank them afterwards for things you learned.
5. Be prepared to be constructively and supportively critical.
6. Relate to your preachers as one human being to other human beings.
7. Be on the lookout for gifts of preaching and teaching in the church, and be ready to tap someone on the shoulder and suggest they develop these gifts and get further training.

Close your study by taking time to pray for the ministry of the word of God in our congregation. Pray especially for the exposition of the Scriptures during our Lord's Day worship gatherings, but also for our Sunday school classes, community groups, men's and women's ministries, and the Harbor Center for Biblical Counseling. Brothers and sisters... "Take care, then, how you hear." (Luke 8:18)