

What makes PG's preaching so effective is the PRACTICALITY of his sermons. They can be applied to life with tangible instruction. Practical Preaching is truth made relevant. In the passage we are going to look at, the Levite's declare God's word, and gave their audience explanation & understanding.

**Nehemiah 8:8 (NCV)** They read from the Book of the Teachings of God and explained what it meant so the people understood what was being read.

### I A RELEVANT BOOK:

**A-** As Pastors we *understand* that the Bible is a relevant book-

1. Relevant for: Life today; Marriage, Parenting, Finances, Work, Relationships, Conflict, Ministry (everything)
2. But people need to see that it is relevant... youth (CK), new converts, established saints, long term saints
  - a. The truth is: Many believers do not have this revelation! *The bible isn't the first place they turn to for answers.*
3. So, it is our job as ministers to help bring this truth to understanding.
  - a. The bible is relevant to you, and what you may be going through right now.
4. One of the ways we make this known is from the Pulpit-
  - a. Practical Preaching makes the Bible relevant to where people are at... Can they find themselves in your sermon?
  - b. PG's preaching & SM helped me gain this revelation!
    - i. This is what's happening in our passage: They are helping a people that have drifted from the WOG to tune into it, showing them there's relevance for today.

### II THE ART OF PRACTICALITY:

**A-** Practical preaching is an art, there's a few ways we can accomplish this-

1. Sanctified Self Interest: This is where you present a truth, that when applied benefits you- *Here's why it in your best interest-*
  - a. Tithing, Fornication, Exampleship-
2. Potential: This is what the potential is... when you *Evangelize, Surrender, Obey, Give*
3. Divine Enablement: Its not just up to you! God can get involved and accelerate things when you *Repent, Forgive, Step out in faith*
4. Old saying: You catch more flies with honey than vinegar.
  - a. Use inspiration, use faith, use hope, use the promises of God!

**B-** So when you declare a truth, answer the WHY & WHAT & HOW

1. Why does this matter? Why do we need to know this?
2. What do I do with this? What does this change?
3. How does this work? How does this look? How will this benefit/bless you?
4. Now, Anyone can do this, but you have to THINK... ask Questions... Work it out... but it is catchable, transferable, & teachable

### III PRACTICAL PREACHING:

**A-** So, our job as ministers isn't just declaring truth, but practically applying it.

1. **V8** They read from the Book of the Teachings of God and **explained** what it meant so the people **understood** what was being read.
  - a. When a truth is explained and understood, it has a longer shelf life.
    - i. PG preached a Ministry meeting that stuck w me: Samson was led by a child for entertainment, it cost them greatly
2. When people can apply a truth (b/c you showed them how) it becomes a revelation... They see it with clarity.
  - a. Then it becomes a conviction... a settled decision.
3. The point is that they can make realistic changes that pay big dividends!