

“REVELATION SKILLS”

Hos 13:4-8

This lesson came out of a session with our concert director: He was drawn to/inspired by a text – but he didn't know where to go with it. I went through it with him, and thought it was a very valuable exercise as it covers several different areas of finding & developing revelation from a text. We aim not to be topical preachers (choose a topic and find various texts/thoughts to support your topic), but textual preachers: Choose a text and find & develop what that text says! A good preacher lets the text speak – not simply using the text to support what you want to say.

Key understanding: You cannot approach every scripture the same way! You need multiple skills in revelation.

The text will determine how you approach it!

I. INITIAL CHOICES

A. This began with his Bible reading (most of my sermons come out of Bible reading)

1. He ‘saw’ something in **Hosea 13:5-6**

a. Hosea 13:5-6 I knew you in the wilderness, In the land of great drought. When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me.

1. What occurred to him was that this had to do with gratitude; But that was it

2. A topical sermon would simply find scriptures about gratitude/thankfulness

B. Finding the parameters

1. How much of the scripture do you need to include in the sermon?

a. I chose to exclude **V1-3** Ephraim/specifics of idolatry (*too easy to get sidetracked: Baal/kiss the calves*)

b. I chose to exclude **V9-16**; Details of destruction/Samaria (easy to get lost)

2. I chose to include **V4** and **V7-8**

a. **V4** Speaks about God (we are actually called to preach about God – not just people)

b. **V4** Speaks about Egypt – where the story of **V6** begins – deliverance from Egypt

II. REVELATION MINING

A. We begin by finding what is in there already

1. This is before we go to commentaries/word studies or start adding thoughts from elsewhere

2. You cannot preach clearly unless you first clearly understand the text/the main ideas in there!

B. Finding Key Words

1. What is the main word or phrase that helps explain the text? (if there is only 1)

*a. **V6 forgot...***

2. This determines what should/should not be in the sermon

a. If not – you will go off in other directions: *God as Savior/symbolism of wilderness/leopards/bears, etc.*

*1. **V4** points toward “forgetting” – explains how they wound up in a place to forget*

*2. **V6** explains why they forgot*

*3. **V7** explains the consequences of forgetting*

3. Other key words:

a. **V4 Egypt** (this is recounting a story – that began in Egypt)

b. **V5 Wilderness** (continuing story – where God helped them)

c. **V6 Filled** (their condition of blessing by God) **Heart/exalted** (*what happened to their heart when filled*)

d. **V7-8** do not contain key words – they are a poetic description of God’s reaction

C. Determine whether the key words need to be studied to understand correctly

1. In this case – I don’t think so: *They mean what they say – there is no hidden meaning or background in Hebrew*

a. Some scriptures this is important: *Integrity...the word study will make it come alive*

D. Find the logical sections of the text (this is not the same as finding the 3 points of the sermon!)

This is determined by your main idea: Forgetting

(Remember the Bible was not written in verses: Ideas may overlap verses)

1. **V4-5 Egypt/the wilderness**

a. A picture of the past: Egypt a picture of sin – before salvation; Wilderness can be past bad decisions

1. The description given **V5** Great drought...things don’t work well

2. **V6 Pasture/being filled**

a. Implied is they were brought out of Egypt/out of the wilderness

1. A picture of blessing/God helping us in life

3. **V6 Human nature – our reaction to blessing**

- a. V6 heart was exalted (lifted up) Pride! *Where have we seen that before in scripture?*
- b. The outflow of pride: Forgetting... What? God/where the blessings came from
- 4. **V7-8 God's reaction to our forgetting**
 - a. Graphic description/lions/leopards/bears ripping apart ribcage & eating them
 - b. Important skill: **Macro vs. micro**; Look at the big picture!
 - 1. Is that literally the danger for our listeners? *Lions ripping rib cage apart? Micro...*
 - c. What is God graphically describing? Consequences! *Macro/big picture!*
 - 1. What did God do before? V6 filled V4-5 implied saved them – helped them! Worked for them
 - 2. So (big picture) what is the consequence? He won't help them – He will work against them!

III. THE LOGICAL PATH

- A. What is missing in the story?
 - 1. Hope – or the answer to forgetting
 - a. *Some would leave it there – with God ripping out their rib cage!*
 - 2. What is the answer? It will be the opposite of the problem!
 - a. **Remembering!** Connected to gratitude/thankfulness – which is where the thought came from
- B. Choosing your points
 - 1. Problem: We now have 5 points
 - a. Remembering should logically be point 3; So we actually have 4 thoughts for 2 points
 - 2. We use logic: Linear thinking – thinking in a line
 - a. Start at the beginning b. Which ones logically go together?
 - 1. Egypt and the help/blessing of God
 - 2. Our heart/forgetting and God's reaction
 - 3. The answer/remedy to forgetting
 - 3. Linear thinking/in a line: *If this is true, then that must be true, then this will be true...*
 - a. Logical: Our main idea is actually in the middle (the problem – forgetting)
 - 1. So we have to go backward: Egypt/the Blessing – where does the problem come from?
 - 2. Then forward: You can't give the answer until you show the problem
 - 3. Then you give the answer: Remembering
- C. Our three points (which should be logical/linear)

I. THE HELP OF GOD

II. THE HUMAN TENDENCY

III. THE CORRECT RESPONSE

- D. I get 3 separate pages and write the main point at the top
 - 1. Write down any related thoughts/scriptures/illustrations
 - a. *The order is not crucial at this point*
 - 1. What are some ideas/thoughts that build your case?
 - 2. What are some scriptures that speak of this?
 - 3. Who are some Bible examples that did/didn't do this/that this happened to?
 - 4. What are some possible illustrations that will bring your truth to light/make it live?
 - a. *Actual illustrations you already think of* b. *Key words so you can search afterward*
 - 2. Assemble in the correct order that works best – using the thoughts/scriptures you've written down
 - 3. Final draft: Type or write it – in the way/order you will preach it.