

The great questions of every preacher: What do I preach? Where do sermons/inspiration come from?

What is the starting point of inspiration?

There are many different methods of approaching: Will look at the issue of moving from topic to text

A. Sermons can be determined topically:

1. There are topics or issues that need to be covered in preaching
 - a. **Common issues:** Prayer/evangelism/giving/Church/faith/forgiveness...regular rotation
 - b. **Holidays:** Christmas/Easter/Thanksgiving/Independence Day
 - c. **Events:** Baby dedications/baptisms/funerals/weddings/church plants, etc.
2. You can cover these topically: Look for lots of scriptures on issues – throw them all in there
 - a. Your sermon will wind up being very broad – probably even confusing

B. A better plan would be to move from topic to text

1. Locate a text dealing with that particular topic: So you can find the truth in that text
 - a. **This can be any text that brings out that topic or idea**
 1. But your purpose narrows/determines what to look for/how to look at the text
 - b. **You may have a vague idea or 1 small thought – direction you want the sermon to go in**
 1. *Q: What text deals with or brings out that angle?*

C. Literal example: In Perth – Tom Payne needs a wedding/marriage sermon (**Need/topic**)

1. He has an article that suggest an angle
 - a. Article: Lost wedding ring shows up in garden – on top of a growing carrot
 1. Suggests an idea/angle: In marriage things can be lost – and can be recovered/restored!
2. Obvious question: What are some scriptures that speak of things being lost and getting found?
 - a. Came up with **Luke 15:8-12** lost coin...actually a marriage issue; Engagement/wedding set

D. Now we have a text and a theme that tells us what to look for – and what to leave out!

1. Things being lost
 - a.
2. What does the woman do when love is lost?
 - a.
3. What are the results?