What Preaching Is Aimed At

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INTRODUCTION

- What do you think it's aimed at? We're not talking about the goal, we're talking about the target that we're aiming at.
- Any preaching that is not solidly rooted in the word of God and not consistent with the word of God simply isn't good preaching.

1 Changing People, Not Just Their Behavior

- Preaching cannot and will not profoundly or permanently change a person's behavior without first changing a person's heart.
- What we're trying to do is change people. And change them in a permanent way to make them different, people who are better and more like Jesus Christ.
- All of us have the ability and can to one degree or another change our actions by willpower for a while.

2 Be Transformed by the Renewing of Your Mind

Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 4:17–24

- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
- Don't let yourself be forced into the mold of your times.
- That you be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on a new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.
- If you really want to change who you are, you've got to change the way you think about things.

3 Our Actions Reflect What Our Heart Really Looks Like

Mark 7:20–23; Proverbs 4:23

- That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.
- Our thoughts and our words and our deeds are really a reflection of what our heart really looks like.
- If you want to know what your heart really is, don't just look at your feelings. Look at your actions.
- Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the spring of life.

4 Good Preaching Has as Its Target the Heart

Hebrews 4:12

- Good preaching ought to have as its target the heart. It ought to be aimed at changing people's hearts.

- The word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. And is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- It forces us to see ourselves not subjectively, but objectively, the way God truly sees us.
- You need to listen to preaching, and you need to read your Bible without anyone else in mind except you.

5 The Word of God Is Like a Mirror

James 1:21–25

- In humility, receive the implanted word which is able to save your souls.
- Prove yourselves to be doers of the word and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- It is intended to reflect our natural real face, as it were, so that we can fix whatever it exposes to be out of shape or out of place.
- The word of God shows them who they are, and they don't like the picture.
- No matter how bad it hurts, you and I need to make a break from whatever it is that's wrong in our life.

6 Sanctify Christ as Lord in Your Heart

1 Peter 3:15

- Good preaching is aimed at the heart. It's aimed at helping you to sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart.
- You can't make Jesus Lord of your life. He already is the Lord of your life.
- And you will obey him, or you will pay the consequence.

THE CHALLENGE

My prayer is that as we preach the word, holding up the mirror of God's word to your life, that you will look into it and see yourself the way God sees you. That you will take it very personally.

MY NOTES