

# Preaching the Scriptures

## KCML Lecturer

Rev Dr Geoff New



**KNOX CENTRE  
FOR MINISTRY  
& LEADERSHIP**

## Content

This course is designed to help you find your voice as a preacher. The content of the course aims to help you create sermons which linger in the text, loiter in the congregation and live in the world. The course will cover how to preach from the Old and New Testaments; to appreciate the enduring themes and story-lines which flow throughout all of Scripture; and how to pray the Scriptures you are preaching from. The spirituality of the preacher will also be an important focus.

## Outcomes

- ◆ The creation of clearly structured sermons which are based on sound exegesis of Scripture and exposition of the text.
- ◆ An awareness of the gifts and graces God is forming in your life as a preacher.
- ◆ An appreciation of the skills and approaches to various genres of Scripture for the purposes of preaching.
- ◆ An engagement with the prayerful interaction and imagination of the Biblical text.
- ◆ Exposure to different forms/structures that sermons can take.
- ◆ The development of your spirituality as a preacher of the Scriptures.

## Block Course Modules

Text to Sermon	Summer 2018 Intern introduction
Preaching and the Imagination	Summer 2018
Preaching the Old Testament	Winter 2018
Preaching in a Busy Life	Spring 2018
Preaching the New Testament	Summer 2019
Biblical Theology	Winter 2019
Style, Structure and Landings	Spring 2019

## Methods & Assessments

### ASSIGNMENT 1 – 10%

#### Sermons for Comment

Over the time of your two-year internship, submit **four** sermon manuscripts either prior to or after preaching the sermon.

#### **One sermon can be based on one of the outlines from Assignment 2**

This exercise is not designed to generate more work for you. You are to simply submit a sermon you are working on as part of your normal and ongoing ministry in your placement. The intent of this assignment is to create the opportunity to receive feedback in the midst of your placement and regular preaching.

These sermons will be graded on the Readiness for Ministry criteria.

Submission dates:

- ◆ One sermon any time prior to the Winter Block Course 2018
- ◆ One sermon any time prior to the Summer Block Course 2019<sup>1</sup>
- ◆ One sermon any time prior to the Winter Block Course 2019
- ◆ One sermon any time prior to the Spring Block Course 2019

### ASSIGNMENT 2 - 30%

#### Who, Where and What?

**Due Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

(You will need to utilise the two “Introduction to Preaching” lecture handbooks from the 2018 Summer Block Course to help you with this assignment)

#### **1. Who: Your Identity as a Preacher (250 words)**

Referring to pages 1-2 in the “Introduction to Preaching Handbook” – choose **ONE** of the following questions to engage with:

- ◆ What is your “song”?
- ◆ What is your “prayer to the God of my life?”
- ◆ What is your Beatitude name?

---

<sup>1</sup>I will be on study leave from 24<sup>th</sup> September – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. So, any sermons sent during that time will not be able to be engaged with until my return.

- ◆ How does the letter from Christ, written on your heart, read?

Write a concise response to the question of your choice insofar as it relates to your work as a preacher.

## 2. Where: The Context of Your Preaching (250 words)

Referring to pages 4-6 of the “Introduction to Preaching Handbook”, choose **ONE** of the images to engage with:

- ◆ A Person to serve (Isa 42:1-9; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12)
- ◆ A wall to build (Nehemiah 8)
- ◆ A city to inhabit (The Book of Jeremiah)
- ◆ A seed to sow (Mark 4:1-20)
- ◆ A scroll to read (Luke 4:18-19)
- ◆ A road to walk (Luke 24:13-35)
- ◆ A world to engage (The Acts of the Apostles)
- ◆ A church to lead (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5)

Read the description in the handbook about the image of your choice. Write a concise response about how this image moulds you as a preacher and sensitises you to your listeners.

## 3. What: The Shape of Your Preaching (TWO sermon outlines)

Reference – “Introduction to Preaching (practical skills) Handbook”

Important note: For each sermon outline you will submit **THREE** distinct pieces of work:

### i. Observations from the text

Using the guidelines contained in **pages 2-5** of the Handbook, record the observations you made from the Biblical text in your preparation.

**Important:** Your observations are to be submitted as part of your assignment

### ii. Observations from everyday life

As part of your preparation, go to **three** physical locations of your choosing (e.g. shopping mall, park, beach, pub, café, school, sporting event etc) and read the Scripture you are preparing your sermon on. Take note of your surroundings as you read Scripture. “Don’t make it happen. See what happens.”

**Important:** Your observations are to be submitted as part of your assignment

### iii. Sermon Outline

Using the model described in **pages 12-17**, record your sermon outline in using the following format:

#### Country View

Write a one sentence summary of the Biblical passage. This is your sermon in a sentence. Remember, it needs to be exegetically accurate and hermeneutically accurate.

#### Provinces

List the main points which naturally emerge from your Country View. These main points are headings and so they need to be succinct and memorable. To ensure they are grounded in the Biblical text, ensure you allocate which verse numbers from the Scripture each Province relates to.

#### Cities

Within each Province you will take the listener on a journey from one city to another: Explanation City, Illustration City and Application City.

At this point of your sermon preparation, you will **not** have written detailed content. So simply describe the kinds of issues you will address in these three cities as it relates to the Scripture you are preaching from.

The exercise of reading the Biblical text in various physical locations (see “ii. Observations from everyday life” above) will help you in this part.

#### Global

How does this particular Bible passage link in with other parts of the Bible? What other passages support and enhance an understanding of the passage you are preaching from?

#### Anthem

What is the music of this sermon? What is the strong and stirring Biblical theme evident in this sermon?

#### Flag

What is an apt emblem or symbol for this sermon?

If you wish, these two sermon outlines can be used for two other assignments required for this course:

- ◆ One sermon outline can be used as the basis for work required for Assignment 1 “Sermon for Comment”
- ◆ One sermon outline can be used as the basis for work required for Assignment 3 “Class Sermon”

### Assignment 2 Checklist

Assignment Components to be Submitted	✓
1. <b>“Who”</b> : have I written 250 words?	
2. <b>“Where”</b> : have I written 250 words?	
<b>3. “What”: sermon outline 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. have I written <u>my observations from the Biblical text</u>? These will be submitted as part of my assignment.</li> <li>ii. Have I written my <u>observations from everyday life</u> having read the Biblical text in three physical locations? These will be submitted as part of my assignment.</li> <li>iii. Have I written my <u>sermon outline</u> according to the required model in handbook? These will be submitted as part of my assignment.</li> </ul>	
<b>“What”: sermon outline 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. have I written <u>my observations from the Biblical text</u>? These will be submitted as part of my assignment.</li> <li>ii. Have I written my <u>observations from everyday life</u> having read the Biblical text in three physical locations? These will be submitted as part of my assignment.</li> <li>iii. Have I written my <u>sermon outline</u> according to the required model in handbook? These will be submitted as part of my assignment.</li> </ul>	

**ASSIGNMENT 3 - 30%**

**Class Sermons**

**Due Date:** Winter Block Course 2018

**Class Sermons**

Preach a 15-minute sermon in class modelled on the format from the “Introduction to Preaching (practical skills) Handbook”.

**The sermon can be based on one of the outlines from Assignment 2.**

**No PowerPoints to be used for this class sermon.**

- ◆ A full sermon manuscript is to be submitted to the lecturer **a week** before you preach
- ◆ The sermon will be marked by the lecturer
- ◆ At the end of the sermon, each intern will be required to offer one comment by way of a commendation or recommendation. There will also be a question posed by the lecturer on the day for interns to answer concerning the sermon.

**ASSIGNMENT 4 - 30%**

**Four Sermons: Before, During and After**

**Due Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019

(Sermons for this assignment cannot be sermons submitted for Assignment 1)

For this assignment – you are to prepare, preach and reflect on four sermons.

- ◆ Two sermons will be draw on your prayer experience of praying a Biblical text using *lectio divina*
- ◆ Two sermons will be drawing on your prayer experience of praying a Biblical text using Ignatian Gospel Contemplation

**1. Before:** utilise *lectio divina* and/or Ignatian Gospel Contemplation to pray the Biblical text at hand before doing any other sermon preparation. (If an alternative prayer discipline better suits an intern and satisfies the intention of this exercise, that prayer discipline can be used instead subject to the approval of the lecturer).

Journal any effect praying the Scripture has had on your preparation for each of the sermons. Grammar, spelling and sentence structure can be disregarded for the benefit of capturing the raw experience.

This journal entry will be submitted as part of this assignment.

**2. During:** during your sermon preparation, craft the sermon allowing it to be influenced by the experience of praying the Biblical text.

The sermon manuscript for this sermon will be submitted as part of this assignment.

**3. After:** In the week following preaching each sermon, journal any thoughts, experiences, feedback, prayer etc post-sermon. Grammar, spelling and sentence structure can be disregarded for the benefit of capturing the raw experience.

This journal entry will be submitted as part of this assignment.

## Summary

For this assignment – you will be submitting FOUR distinct pieces of work (i.e. four sermons). Two are based on *lectio divina* and two are based on Ignatian Gospel Contemplation.

Each piece of work (sermon) will comprise of:

- ◆ one journal entry (“Before”) describing your prayer experience
- ◆ one sermon manuscript (“During”)
- ◆ one journal entry describing your experience post-preaching (“After”)

**Assignment 4 Checklist** (for each of the four sermons required to make up this assignment)

Assignment Components to be Submitted	✓
<p><b>1. Before:</b> Have I journaled the effect of praying the Biblical text (using <i>lectio divina</i> or Ignatian Gospel Contemplation) before doing any other sermon preparation on this Bible text? My journal entry will be submitted as part of the assignment.</p>	
<p><b>2. During:</b> Have I written the sermon allowing it to be influenced by the praying of the Biblical text? My full sermon manuscript will be submitted as part of the assignment.</p>	
<p><b>3. After:</b> In the week after I have preached the sermon, have I journaled about my experience post-preaching? My journal entry will be submitted as part of the assignment.</p>	

**COLLOQUIA: The Voice**

Each year you will attend two colloquiums. Each will focus on a pastoral incident or leadership issue. You will receive more information about this from your field work co-ordinator.

At each colloquium one aspect of the reflection will be for you to respond to the question:

“Of the sermons I have either preached or heard in my placement; have any provided a voice into the case study I am now presenting? If so, how so? If not, why not?”

**MINISTRY REFLECTION GROUP: Lasting Impressions**

As part of the progress reporting schedule, the Ministry Reflection Group (MRG) will complete a feedback form summarising their observations over time of your preaching ministry rather than specific sermons.

**Plagiarism statement**

It is the responsibility of the intern to make sure that all work submitted to KCML is their own. Generally, we follow the University of Otago’s definition and policy regarding plagiarism (refer to <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism>) where plagiarism is defined generally as:



1. copying or paraphrasing another person's work and presenting it as your own;
2. being party to someone else's plagiarism by letting them copy your work or helping them to copy the work of someone else without acknowledgement;
3. using your own work in another situation, such as for the assessment of a different paper or program, without indicating the source.

Plagiarism can be unintentional or intentional. Even if it is unintentional, it is still considered to be plagiarism. Where it is found that plagiarism has taken place, penalties will be applied (see process and penalties <http://knoxcentre.ac.nz/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/KCML-Internship-Programme-Handbook-2016.pdf>)

## Indicative Bibliography

Elizabeth Achtemeier, *Preaching the Hard Texts of the Old Testament* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1998)

Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Preaching Life* (Boston: Cowley, 1993)

Anna Carter Florence, *Preaching as Testimony* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2007)

Fred B. Craddock, *Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1985)

Darrell W. Johnson, *The Glory of Preaching: participating in God's transformation of the world* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2009)

Graham Johnston, *Preaching to a Postmodern World: a guide to reaching twenty-first listeners* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001)

Timothy Keller, *Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism* (New York: Viking, 2015)

Thomas Long, *The Witness of Preaching* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2005) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

Alice P. Mathews, *Preaching that Speaks to Women* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003)

Geoff New, *Imaginative Preaching: praying the Scriptures so God can speak through you* (Carlisle: Langham Global Library, 2015).

Geoff New, *Live, Listen, Tell: the art of preaching* (Carlisle: Langham Preaching Resources, 2017).

John Stott & Greg Scharf *The Challenge of Preaching* (Carlisle: Langham, 2011)

Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997) – for her chapter on exegeting the congregation. She updates it in Thomas Long G. Long and Leonora

Tubbs Tisdale eds., *Teaching Preaching as a Christian Practice: a new approach to homiletical pedagogy* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008), chapter 5.

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Preaching and Teaching with Imagination: the quest for Biblical Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994).

Elie Wiesel, *Messengers of God: biblical portraits and legends* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1976)

There are classic texts on preaching by John Stott, Haddon Robinson, Charles Spurgeon, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones and William Sangster which, while may require some agility to apply it to today's context, nevertheless are considered "classics" for good reason.

(November 2017)