

MAKING THE CONNECTION

Langham Preaching

Mark Meynell

1. How do we hear from God?

(i) The Risky Route

- ★ *The Reader bypasses the Word*

- ★ *The Preacher bypasses the Word*

- ★ *The Preacher bypasses History*

(ii) The Ideal Route

- ★ *From The Biblical World...*

- ★ *... To Today's World*

- ★ *Avoiding 2 traps (2 Timothy 4:2-3)*
 - ▶ Irrelevance
 - ▶ Irresponsibility

2. A Double Engagement

(i) The Ancient World of the Bible

- ★ ***Understand the Word***
 - ▶ Worldview-shaping

 - ▶ Life transforming

- ★ ***Distinguish Biblical Principle from Individual Event***
 - ▶ Is it *Narrative Description* or *Discipleship Prescription*?

 - ▶ What if anything in Salvation History is changed by this event?

 - ▶ Does it illustrate an ethical principle outlined elsewhere?

★ ***Ethics for its time?***

(ii) **Today's World of the Listener**

★ ***Understand your Audience***

- ▶ Taking their questions seriously
- ▶ Identifying with their pain
- ▶ Breathing the same 'oxygen'

★ ***Apply in 3 dimensions***

- ▶ The Private:
 - Us with God: Our relationship with God
 - Us with ourselves: Our inner/thought/private life
- ▶ The Relational:
 - Us with others
 - Us in public/visible life
- ▶ The Social
 - Our wider culture
 - The Church in society

3. **3 Ways to Live**

Tim Keller, *pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York*
The Prodigal God (2008) and The Reason for God (2008)

Luke 15 – The Parable of the 2 Sons

★ ***The Rebel***

★ ***The Religious***

★ ***The Rescued***

Audience Realities

I. IDENTIFY PEOPLE'S CIRCUMSTANCES

HOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Single / Married / Divorced / Widowed ● With Children / With Teenagers / With elderly parents
WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employed / Part-Time / Unemployed / Retired ● Overdoing it / Bored / Fulfilled / No job security
CHURCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consumer / Limelight-seeker / servant-hearted / Giver / Too busy / Cliquey / 'Strong vs Weak'
LIFESTYLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addicted / undisciplined / disciplined but judgmental / generous-hearted to others / conscious of failure
BACKGROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian home / secular home / other religion ● parent: abusive / absent / affirming / demanding
CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class / Nationality / Education level
MONEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Debt / Getting by / Wealthy / Greedy
THE FUTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ambitions / Hopes / Dreams / Fears

2. IDENTIFY PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Ignorant but... UNTEACHABLE	stir up strongly!
Ignorant but... TEACHABLE	instruct!
Knowledgeable but... PUFFED UP	give/pray for a sense of sin!
Humbled but... DESPERATE	ground in gospel assurance!
Believers... GOING on with GOD	build up!
Believers... IN ERROR	correct

3. IDENTIFY SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

INSTRUCTION	The truth means and implies ???
CORRECTION	The truth means that ??? errors are contradicted
EXHORTATION	The truth means doing ??? specific good works
REBUKE	The truth means stopping ??? specific sins
ENCOURAGEMENT	The truth means taking ??? encouragement
EXAMINATION	The truth means asking where you stand in the light of ???