

Week 6:

Application: What do the scriptures mean for us today?

1. General principles for application

Dauids 125-137

- **Do your exegetical homework**
- **Deal with the major truth(s) of the text**
- **Keep the text in context**
- **Bridge the historical and cultural gap**
 - Comparable situations
 - Comparable audiences
 - Comparable principles
 - Comparable use of genre
 - Comparable call to action
- **Be scrupulous about 'must–may–must not'**
 - Use historical examples carefully
 - Resist codifying general wisdom, incidental truths, analogies
 - Remember 'progressive revelation', e.g. laws
- **Distinguish the certain from the uncertain**
- **Distinguish matters of indifference from major truths**
- **Distinguish moral issues from cultural preferences**
- **Let the Spirit and the scripture speak to your own life**
- **Do it!**

2. General suggestions on presentation

- **Use a style that is natural, comfortable for you**
- **Use a style relevant to your audience, situation**
- **Don't read it, tell it**
- **Make it interesting**
- **Provide a map of where you are going**
- **'Rule of Three': 3 points make a good structure**
- **Theme–passage's relevance–application**
- **Introduce truth in an relevant way**
- **Use examples–relevant, not distracting**
- **Use 'homework' details only if relevant and interesting**
- **Personalise the message: relevance to you**
- **Repeat important points**
- **Answer the question, 'So what?'**
- **Provide a clear 'call to action'**
- **Let the Holy Spirit provide specific guidance**

3. Examples

4. Application

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- From text itself**
 - Comparing like situations**
 - Confirmation of the Spirit**
 - Doing it!**
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SAMPLE TEACHING OUTLINE (Davids, 133-34)

Three points, with three sub-points each

I. Introduction

A. **Rejection is part of life** [I like a slogan or sometimes a short story to grab attention as I start]

1. Rejection from that first boyfriend or girlfriend
2. Rejection because you could not do some thing well in school or on the team
3. Etc.

Relevant introduction
Bridge to the passage

B. **Christians also struggle with rejection**

1. We have all the normal issues that others have
2. We are also often rejected for being Christian, often in subtle ways [I have a story that I could put in here]

Numerous examples

C. **James knew all about rejection**

1. Some in his church were rejected by others because they were poor
2. Others were rejected because they were not educated in the Bible
3. Virtually all experienced rejection because they were Christians
4. This created constant economic discrimination
5. Listen to what he says about it: [It is at this point that I would read Jas 1:2-4. I do not do it before the message, for then it is not meaningful. I wait until this point for I have already suggested that it may have something to say to a problem that people in the church face.]

Relevant points from exegesis 'homework'

II. Thesis: God calls us to rejoice in our trials (He gives us three reasons for this.)
Main points

Bible passage develops the theme

A. **Trials develop endurance**

1. Trials are those tests of faith we receive because we are Christian
2. As we pay the price our faith becomes stronger [Illustration: Steel that is tempered]
3. Endurance is valued in the New Testament [I would give example passages]
4. This virtue keeps us true to Christ to the end
5. How is your endurance?

Definition

B. **Trials develop maturity**

1. A mature person has overcome the hardships of life
2. Maturity comes from experience
[Illustration: I would put in a story of how I developed due to hardship]
3. We want to be "grown up" when Jesus returns
4. Are you prepared to grow up?

Same points as Bible; 'word study' topics

C. **Trials make us complete**

1. The point of completeness is to be ready for Jesus' return
2. He develops us on earth for reward in heaven [Illustration: Bible passages]
3. What is he completing in your life?

Repeat key point

III. Conclusion

A. **God calls us to rejoice in our trials**

1. He is not calling us to be happy about pain
2. He is calling us to look through our tears and see his reward

Compare/Contrast

B. **We can learn to rejoice in our trials**

1. We can ask how this is developing endurance
2. We can think of how it is leading to maturity
3. We can contemplate the completeness Christ is forming in us
4. Right now picture in your minds his coming reward [Meditation time to do this]

'So what?'
Calls to action

Reasons why

C. **We can also stand beside one another as we go through trials**

If you are going through a trial and are struggling with rejoicing, I invite you to **come forward now so we can stand with you and pray for you**

Closing prayer