

'THE REST OF THE STORY'

(Rightly dividing the Word of Truth about teaching Bible like Jesus)
Applying the Life of Christ to Our Lives Today

What is 'Expositional Bible Teaching'?

Expositional teaching and preaching is the best way to learn the Scriptures because it brings to life the Words of God from the printed pages of the Bible. To *expose* something means to reveal its meaning in a way that makes the doctrines and narratives of God's Word come alive in minds and hearts of all willing to hear and meditate on a particular passage. Expositional teaching focuses on the Lord and what He wants to reveal about Himself and His will. Teaching and preaching are best done verse-by-verse through whole books of Scripture, beginning to end, or large sections of continuous passages.

Topical teaching tends to focus more on different subjects and how the speaker thinks on a particular topic using numerous disconnected verses to support his or her opinion. Topical teaching is not concerned with anything other than using *proof texts* the speaker is hoping will persuade and support whatever subject he or she is enthralled with for the day. Verses are often used out of context to convince hearers about the speaker's *topic* of the day.

Because people's lives today are so hectic with various stresses of life and broken relationships, etc. they don't attend services regularly and thus don't mind disconnected *topical* teaching. If they only attend on nonconsecutive Sundays or infrequently, they don't mind this weaker, erratic teaching style. Such teaching doesn't even need connection or context, just elaboration on personal needs and how God can remedy their *problem of the day*. To them, the Bible, God and the church exist to make their life easier, more enjoyable, and personally profitable. Since the Bible doesn't teach that, bits and pieces of random verses will have to do.

This is the popular *last days theology* (2 **Timothy 4:1-4**) that caters to those who prefer *topical teaching* today. This teaching is actually more of a therapy session or motivational speech than a worship service. It is primarily *me-ology* not *theology*. It is a *quick fix* approach to problems that fail to achieve lasting transformation. Topical teaching is many things, but no matter how you try to package it, it isn't *expositional Bible teaching* by any stretch of the imagination and it certainly isn't the way the Lord Jesus Christ ever taught or preached the gospel in His teaching ministry.

A major reason for the spiritual weakness in Christians and their churches today is the substitution of *topical teaching* in place of traditional *expositional teaching*. People under *topical teaching* do not progressively learn the whole Bible and how it fits together as a unity of truth. Nor do they experience normal spiritual growth transformation: **'...from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord'** (2 **Corinthians 3:18**). Instead of letting God speak in complete sentences and connected thoughts through expositional **'verse-by-verse'** **'line-upon-line'** teaching (**Isaiah 28:9-13**), people instead hear *sound bites* of God's Word being misused and abused to manipulate them to accept the speaker's point of view on the *topic of the day*. Many *topical teachers* claim to be *expositional* but in fact they aren't – to read a text, then restate a paraphrase of it before launching off into the *topic du jour* is not *expository teaching*.

Diagramming a verse and using a dictionary as a commentary source may sound erudite, but it is more of a grammatical autopsy, than true *expositional Bible teaching*. The style of Jesus and the apostles was to teach or preach a passage of Scripture in a way that reveals (*exposes*) historical factors, any vital grammar details and literal interpretation of the text. It is presented in a dynamic, enthusiastic manner that draws the listeners' mind and heart into the passage so the Holy Spirit can enlighten one to practical, personal application in life. This is *expositional teaching* and it is the only way for steady, spiritual growth and maturation in the grace of God (**1 Peter 2:1-2, 2 Peter 3:16-18**). **PtL**

‘The Rest of The Story’
(Last Sunday’s text: ‘Jesus’ Sermon in Nazareth’)
Luke 4:14-30

Context: Jesus’ public ministry began with His baptism at age 30 (*probably late AD 27*). After that He was led of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days and nights where He defeated the devil’s efforts to lead Him into temptation. Upon leaving the wilderness, Jesus’ first 6 disciples were chosen (*John 1:35-51*). They returned to Galilee with Him where Jesus performed His first miracle at Cana (*John 2:1-11*). Then, they returned to their homes and families for a brief time as Jesus went to Nazareth and was rejected (*Sunday text*).

According to **Matthew 4:12-7:29** Jesus begins the *great Galilean ministry* (AD 28 – AD 29) by calling four of His disciples, ministering around Galilee, and teaching the Sermon on the Mount outside His ministry base in Capernaum (*Matthew 4:23-25, Mark 1:14-20, Luke 4:40-44*). Every Sabbath Jesus attended and taught in a synagogue...

Passage Questions:

- Why is the account of Jesus’ rejection in Nazareth, only recorded in Luke’s gospel?
- What was the reason Jesus didn’t read the last line of the text from Isaiah He read?
- Why did Jesus choose the Elijah and Elisha miracles to prove His point in Nazareth?
- How did Jesus escape the mob’s attempted murder of Him?
- Other questions about the passage?

Jesus’ Teaching Technique:

“...the eyes of all ... were fixed upon Him... all bore witness to Him and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth” **Luke 4:20-22**

- Have you ever been that enthralled listening to somebody teaching Bible or a sermon?
- Do you think a believer can become a great teacher like the Lord? What does it take?
- Notice how Jesus used Old Testament events to illustrate New Testament truth in His teaching. Do you?
- The Holy Spirit used Jesus’ teaching to convict the listeners. They got mad at Him and tried to kill Him. Was that message a success or a failure? What qualifies as successful?

<u>Scripture</u> <i>(for God to use)</i>	<u>Creative Illustrations</u> <i>(to be interesting to all)</i>	<u>Authoritative</u> <i>(graciously powerful)</i>	<u>Prayer</u> <i>(yourself & people)</i>
John 12:47-50 2 Timothy 4:1-2	Mark 4:33-34 Matthew 13:13-16	Matthew 7:28-29 Hebrews 4:12-13	Colossians 4:2-4 Ephesians 6:18-20

Discuss how inclusion of each of these four factors makes a lesson or sermon so much better and how the absence of any greatly decreases the quality of the message.

- Which do you need to become better at in your teaching?