



# **Missional Preaching**

With Patrick Johnson  
For the Joe R. Engle Institute  
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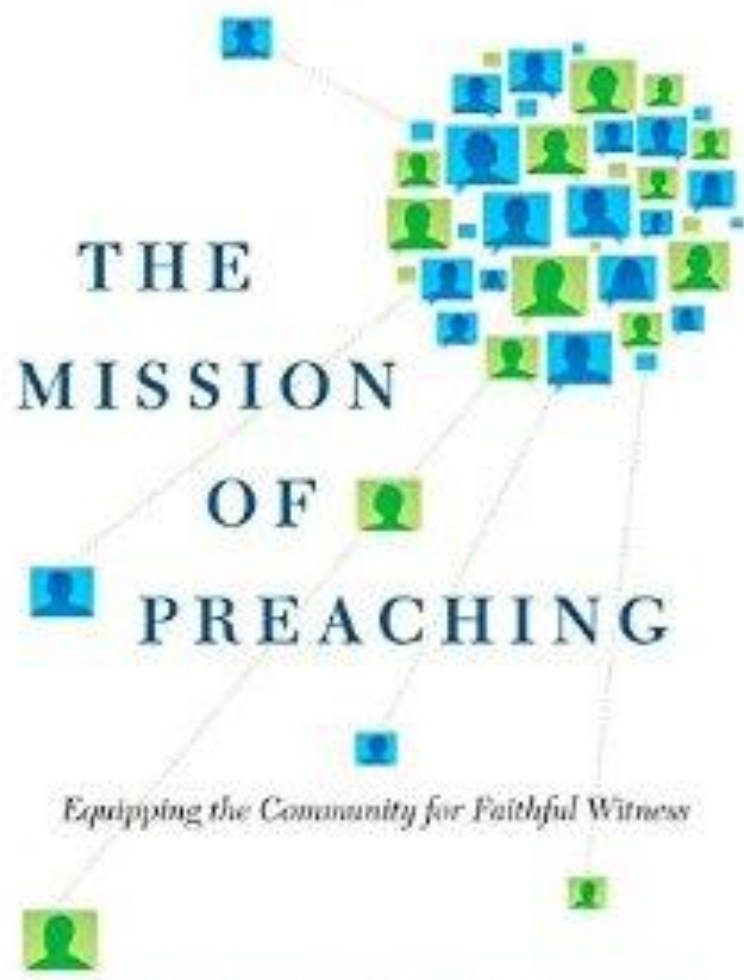




# Welcome and Overview

- Welcome and Introductions
- Preaching the Good Samaritan
- A Missional Interpretation of the Text
- Preaching as Testimony
- Connecting with the Tradition
- Seeing the Gospel Alive
- What's the Big Idea?
- Who's On Your Team?

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# THE MISSION OF PREACHING

*Equipping the Community for Faithful Witness*

PATRICK W. T. JOHNSON

*Foreword by* DAVID J. LOSE

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# Preaching the Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”





# Preaching the Good Samaritan

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.



# Preaching the Good Samaritan

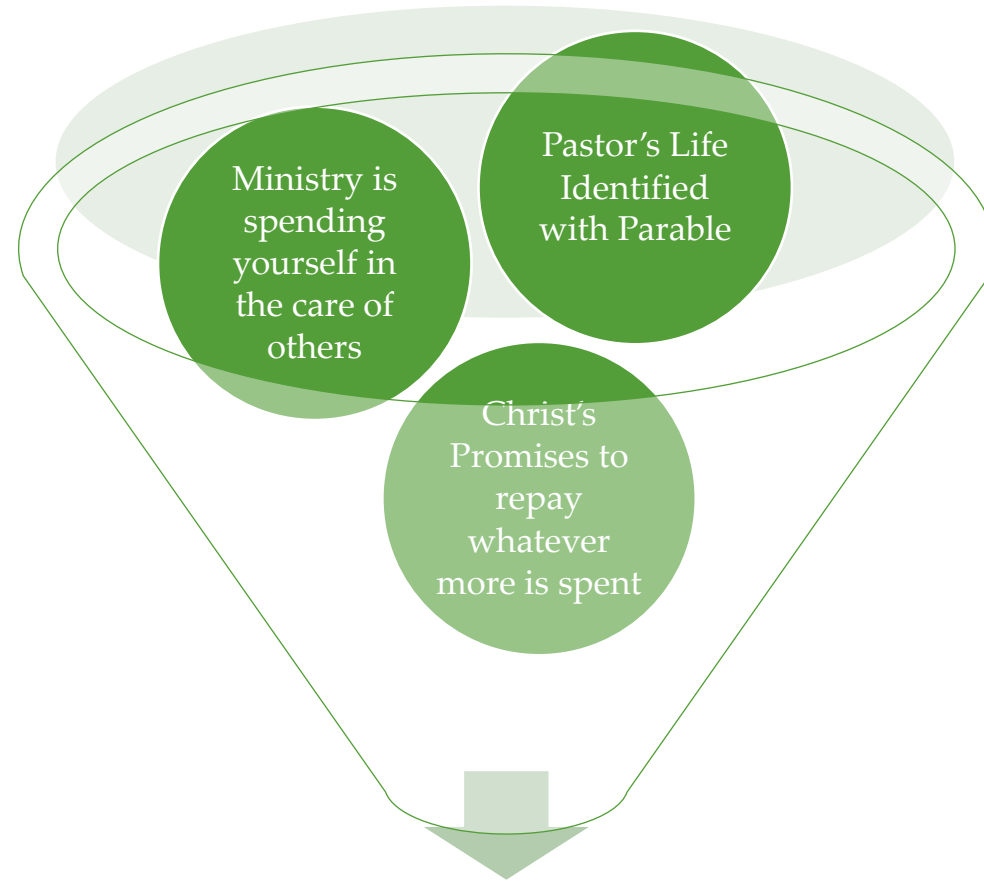
He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."



# Preaching the Good Samaritan

What sermon have you preached or heard in the past on this text? Can you remember a main idea or outline?

Here's an example from Gardner Taylor:



"I will repay whatever more you spend."



# A Missional Interpretation

What are the first steps  
you normally take when  
studying a text for  
preaching?



What are some  
questions you ask  
yourself when studying  
a text for preaching?



What general goal  
might you have for a  
typical sermon?

# A Missional Interpretation

**Key Point:** A missional interpretation does *not* come from a separate “hermeneutical method.” A missional interpretation results from missional questions that are asked in the interpretive process.

# A Missional Interpretation

How did this story form God's people for mission, and how can it do so today?

What cultural blind-spot, or "area for conversion," does this story reveal?

# What marks a Missional Church?

- There are many lists of markers or patterns of a missional church and missional Christians...
  - Barrett, et al. *Treasure in Clay Jars*
  - Woodward, *Creating a Missional Culture*
  - Tizon, *Missional Preaching*
  - Hammond and Cronshaw, *Sentness*



# What is most essential for preaching?

- *A congregation has a shared sense of unique missional vocation*
- *Pastor and congregation interpret scripture using a missional hermeneutic, asking questions about discipleship and missional formation*
- *Preaching/proclamation centers the congregation in Jesus Christ and connects the gospel to the lived experience and witness of the people.*
- *The biblical language and images of the kingdom of God help the congregation understand itself as a provisional sign of God's kingdom and imagine how it can participate in the coming kingdom.*

# We can add to that...

- Taking risks to demonstrate life in the kingdom of God
- Cultivating a rich community life that demonstrates God's *shalom*
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit and rich life of prayer
- Shared authority and communal leadership
- Culture of calling and giftedness

# Preaching as Testimony

Preaching as  
Teaching

Preaching as  
Counseling

Preaching as  
Exhorting

Preaching as  
Guiding

Preaching as  
Proclaiming

# Preaching as Testimony

**Key Point:** The most appropriate kind of preaching for our postmodern culture is preaching *as testimony*. In the sermon, the preacher testifies to what he/she has seen and heard, and what he/she believes about it.



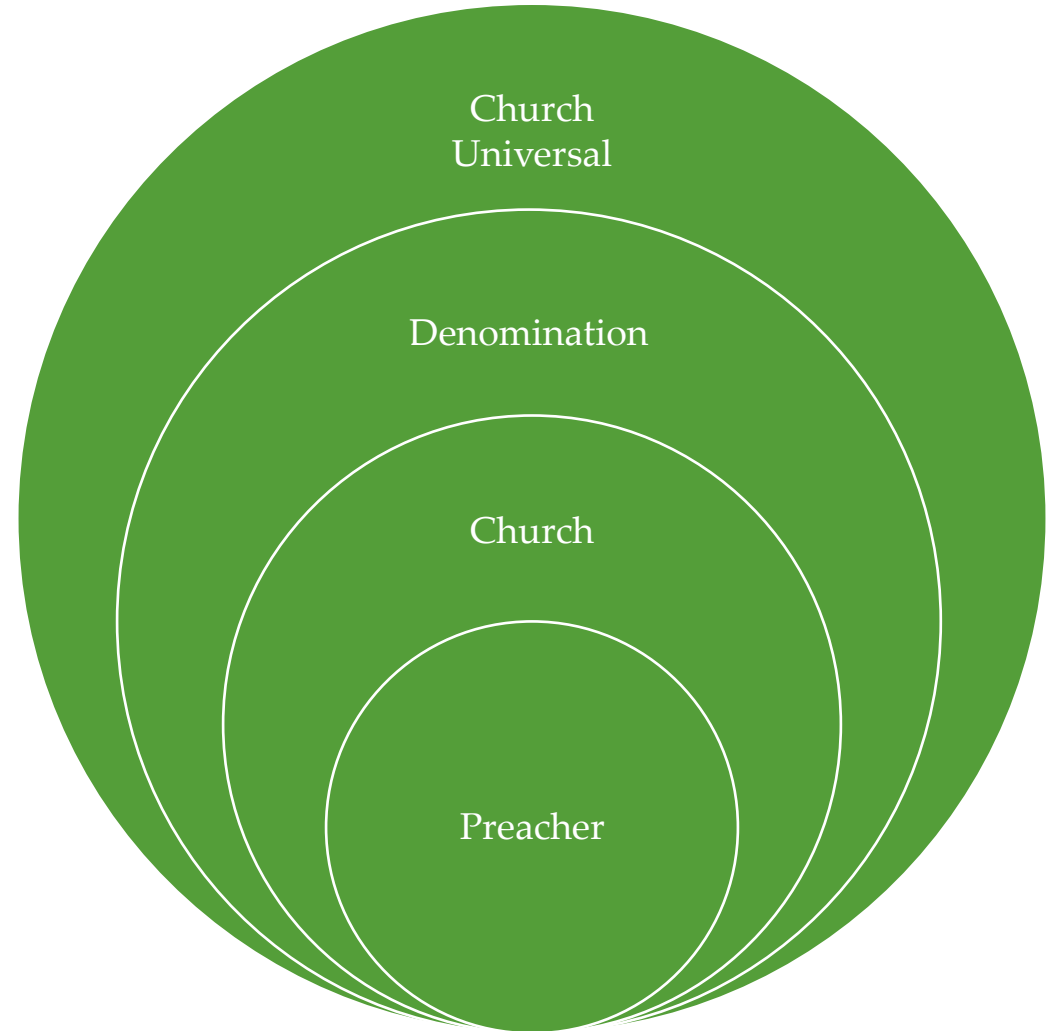
# Preaching as Testimony

How have you experienced the truth of this story in your life?

What do you hear God saying to you through this story?

# Connecting with the Tradition

The preacher stands in a widening circle of overlapping “testimonies” about the interpretation of the text and the gospel.



# Connecting with the Tradition

**Key Point:** Preachers cannot and do not always preach their own “testimony.” Often preachers draw on the testimony or confession of their congregation, their denomination, other Christian witness, and the larger Christian tradition.

# Connecting with the Tradition

How does this story connect with your congregation's faith and history?

How does this story connect with denominational or broader Christian teaching and experience?



# Seeing the Gospel Alive

Preachers use illustrations in sermons to...



# Seeing the Gospel Alive

**Key Point:** Missional preachers look for signs of the in-breaking kingdom of God in the life of their congregation, their communities, and the world around them. These are more than illustrations. These are “signs and wonders” and living testimonies that confirm the truth of the preacher’s words.

# Seeing the Gospel Alive

How have you seen the good news in this story lived out in your congregation or community?

In what way can you imagine this good news being lived out that hasn't happened yet?

# What's the Big Idea?

At some point you have to “land the plane” and start writing the sermon! An excellent way to land the plane is to identify a very clear “focus” and “function” for your sermon.

**Focus:** In one sentence, what do you want your sermon to say?

**Function:** In one sentence, what do you want your sermon to do?



# What's the Big Idea?

Now that you have a focus and function, you begin to figure out the best way to get that into a sermon. It could be...

- **Three “Points”**
- **Several “Moves”**
- **Narrative Structure**
- **Bad News/Good News**

# Who's On Your Team?

In most churches, preaching is a **solo** exercise from start to finish. The preacher chooses the text, studies it, writes the sermon, and preaches it. **Why?**

- Preachers love it!
- The preacher is gifted for it.
- The preacher has education and training for it.
- The congregation expects it.
- That's the way it's always been!



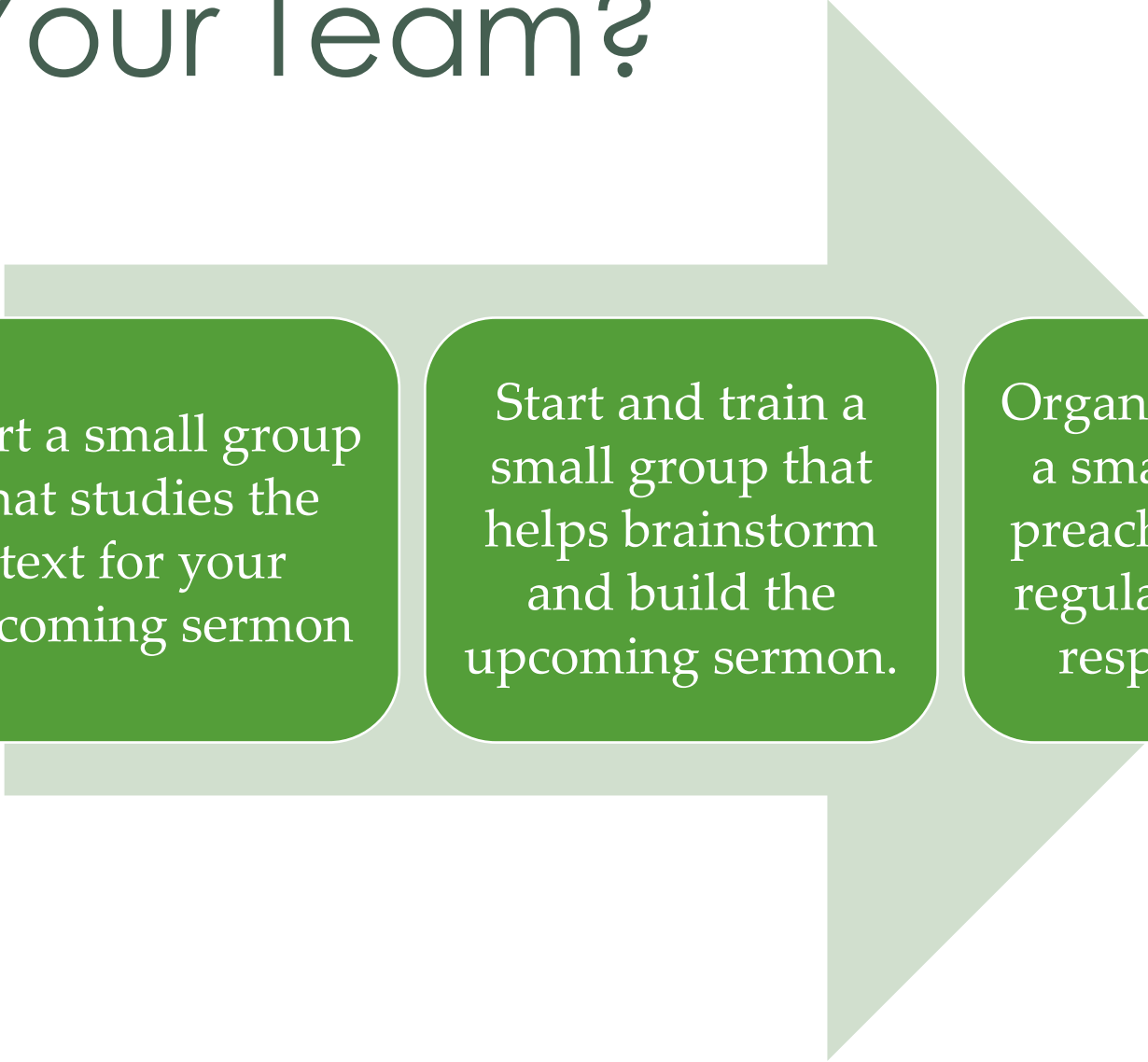
# Who's On Your Team?



***Don't hog the Spotlight!***

**Key Point:** God has given multiple people in your congregation the gift of the ministry of the Word. Helping them exercise their gifts will strengthen the church!

# Who's On Your Team?



Start a small group  
that studies the  
text for your  
upcoming sermon

Start and train a  
small group that  
helps brainstorm  
and build the  
upcoming sermon.

Organize and train  
a small group of  
preachers to share  
regular preaching  
responsibility.

# Become a Missional Preacher!

Stay connected and in regular contact with other missional preachers, perhaps through an Engle roundtable.

Visit my website at [www.missionalpreaching.com](http://www.missionalpreaching.com) for more resources.