



Preaching in a New Key

Crafting Expository Sermons in Post-Christian Communities

by **Mark R. Glanville**

Preaching Schedule

Two Weeks Out

- If you are preaching on two consecutive Sundays, your engagement with the second text will be limited two weeks out. Nonetheless, engaging both texts will enrich your preaching.
- Read the text daily and prayerfully, letting it touch your heart—for yourself, your community, and the world.
- Pray. You might consider praying about a sermon for around the same amount of time it will take to preach.
- Print out your text and stick it onto the preaching sketchpad. Mark up the text as you read it. Note down on the sketchpad when the text connects with your heart; bring this into your sermon.
- Find opportunities to discuss the passage with friends or a home group.
- Prepare for the week ahead, borrowing or buying commentaries and resources, piling them on your desk.
- Again, looking into the week ahead, do not book stressful meetings or stressful pastoral appointments on writing days.

The Preaching Week

- Early in the week, do your exegesis.
- After doing your own exegesis, refer to commentaries and other resources.
- Pray. You might consider praying about a sermon for around the same amount of time it will take to preach.
- Write your sermon on Wednesday and Thursday. Engage your artistic intuition, finding poetry, songs, stories, and art that connect with you.
- Edit, prune, and rehearse your sermon before Sunday.

Sunday Morning

- If you are preaching Sunday morning, rise early. Get into your body, perhaps through a walk, stretches, core exercise, and so on.
- Read devotional material that is lyrical and high quality, leading into a time of prayer. This may feed into your sermon.
- Read over your sermon, making any improvements you want to make.
- Rehearse the sermon again, aiming for eye contact with the congregation for around 70 percent of the time.



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