

The Heavy Responsibility of Sheep-Feeding

by A.W. Tozer

Effective preaching requires being aware of the specific situation and needs of the audience and tailoring the message accordingly.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:7, Ezekiel 34:2-4, Matthew 24:45, Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 9:16, 2 Timothy 4:2, Hebrews 4:12, James 3:1, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Revelation 2:1-7

Topics: "Shepherding", "Responsiveness in Preaching"

Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the heavy responsibility of preaching, highlighting that true shepherds must address the specific needs of their congregation rather than delivering generic messages. He critiques the approach of indiscriminately applying biblical teachings without considering the unique circumstances of the listeners, likening it to giving the same medicine to all patients. Tozer illustrates this by referencing the New Testament epistles and the prophetic writings, which were crafted in response to particular situations. He underscores the importance of the Holy Spirit's guidance in preaching, as demonstrated by Nathan's confrontation of David, which led to genuine repentance. The sermon calls for preachers to be attentive to the specific needs of their flock to effectively minister God's Word.

Transcript

God's Word says that a faithful and wise steward gives the people their meat in due season. Some people preach the Bible all right, and you cannot deny that. But they go to the Bible as you would to a medical book to find out what you should prescribe. But instead of prescribing to suit each patient, they just prescribe for everybody at one time. When a preacher is not preaching to a given situation, it is like giving medicine to people indiscriminately. That approach is not particularly fitted for teaching the Word of God.

Even though it may be faithful and true, without any regard to the current situation, it is like teaching the multiplication table. The New Testament epistles were written to specific conditions, as were the seven letters of Revelation. Particular situations developed, and then the man of God wrote to these particular people. The seven letters found in Revelation were to particular churches, having regard to the needs of those churches. It was the same with the prophets of the Old Testament.

No prophet went into an ivory tower, settled down to relax, read deeply awhile, took out a pen and said, "Now, I'm going to write a book of prophecy." They did not do it that way. They wrote to the need, to the situation. They aimed their arrows at a target. When God is speaking to a particular situation the power of the Holy Spirit is present and active. When David sinned, Nathan the prophet came to him and told a little

parable. When David gave his judgment of what to do with the sinful man, Nathan pointed his finger at the king and said, "You are the man" (2 Samuel 12:7a).

Immediately David threw off his crown and his robe, dropped his scepter, fell on his knees and repented before God. That was a particular situation. When we are talking to a specific situation the sheep are separated from the goats, the veil is removed and the judgment begins.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/aw-tozer/the-heavy-responsibility-of-sheep-feeding/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net