

PROCLAIMING THE MESSAGE

In sessions 1-3 we have dealt with the Preparation and Presentation of the Message. NOW FOR THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE! (Just what it should NOT be)

REMEMBER - WE ALL DIFFER (preaching has been described as 'TRUTH THROUGH PERSONALITY').

1. THE USE OF NOTES (Yes or no?)

N.B. – Whatever you do the message MUST LIVE.

- a. The difficulty of achieving this by reading the sermon.
- b. There is no virtue, in itself, of not using notes.
- c. Too many notes can be a hindrance (getting lost).
- d. Discover by experiment what suits you best.

The advantages of using some notes:-

- a. They keep you on the lines of your thought, thus helping to a logical development of your theme.
- b. They help you not to omit important points.
- c. They crystallise your preparation.

2. THE USE OF THE VOICE

- a. AUDIBILITY. You MUST, MUST, MUST be heard at the back of the Church. (No shouting)
- b. CLARITY. Here there is a lot of difference between folk naturally. Clear ENUNCIATION is the secret. Open the mouth – use the lips- end your words.
- c. VARIATION. We have all heard monotonous speakers. Use loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow. Do NOT drop the voice at the end of a sentence.

3. THE USE OF THE EYES

It is ESSENTIAL, note ESSENTIAL, to LOOK AT YOUR AUDIENCE.
By doing this you can:-

- a. Sense their reaction to the message (boredom, conviction etc.).
- b. Emphasise the application of the message.
- c. Aid the expression of the message.
- d. Aid the expression of the message (smile?).
- e. Cure your own nervousness.

4. THE USE OF THE HANDS (Varies a great deal with people)

- a. Never stand with the hands in the pockets (casual).
- b. Use natural gestures that fit the words (go & come).
- c. Avoid anything comical or grotesque.
- d. Do not use the hands unnecessarily.

5. VOICE PRODUCTION

- a. Begins with breath. So BREATHE, BREATHE, BREATHE.
- b. Depends on breathe control. Run out before end of a sentence? Practise control.
- c. RESONANCE. (Cf – cold in the nose.) Nature's sounding board (no wear & tear on the throat).
- d. Use of water (very little).
- e. Before the service. Blow the nose, clear the throat.
- f. STAND UP ON TWO FEET/BODY UNDER CONTROL/BREATHE IN/OPEN THE MOUTH SPEAK OUT.