

How to Teach the Bible

Scripture Examples of Teaching

I. THE PERSUASIVENESS OF WORDS—SATAN

A. His Ability

1. His creation (Ezekiel 28:12-15)
 - a. He was said to be full of wisdom (Ezekiel 28:12).
 - b. He was possibly the most powerful of God's creation (Jude 1:9).
2. His power
 - a. He orchestrated the fall of mankind (Genesis 3:1-6).
 - b. He moved the heart of Judas Iscariot (John 13:2).
 - c. His wiles are difficult to withstand (Ephesians 6:11).
 - d. He takes some captive of his own will (2 Timothy 2:26)
 - e. He is as dangerous as a lion (1 Peter 5:8).

B. His Style

1. Asking questions (Genesis 3:1); Asking questions can bring the hearers into agreement with you without having to convince them you are right.
2. Explaining gain (Genesis 3:5; Matthew 4:8-9); Perhaps one reason why we struggle to get people to follow our teaching is because we do not show them enough of the benefit of obedience.
3. Appealing to the desire of the hearer (Genesis 3:5-6; Matthew 4:2-3); As teachers we must appeal to the desire of the students. Do they desire peace? Do they desire hope? Do they desire fellowship with God? Do they desire blessings?
4. Manipulating context (Luke 4:9-10 with Psalm 91:11-13); We must be careful to always be honest in our approach to the study and teaching of God's word. This means that we teach the Bible in its context.
5. Note: Satan was more skilled and persistent as a teacher than Adam.

C. His Purpose

1. To yield doubt
 - a. Satan brought doubt into the mind and heart of Eve (Genesis 3:1-5).
 - b. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4).
 - c. Any teacher that leaves the students doubting any part of God's word is doing the work of Satan.
2. Self-gain
 - a. Satan strives to convince people based on his own personal gain.
 - b. As teachers we must make sure that our purpose for teaching is correct. We should never twist the scriptures for our gain. Even when teaching sound biblical truths, we ought to make sure that our motive is right.

II. THE POWER OF TESTIMONY—NOAH AND LOT

A. Noah's Testimony

1. His life
 - a. Noah lived in a time when men were corrupt (Genesis 6:1-7).
 - b. Amid an age of moral darkness and corruptness, Noah was perfect in his generation. He walked with God and had a life that was righteous.
2. His lesson
 - a. Noah walked with God despite the common practice of his day (Genesis 6:8-12).
 - b. Noah was just before God and perfect in his generations (Genesis 6:9).
 - c. Noah preached righteousness to the ungodly (2 Peter 2:5).
 - (1) Noah's preaching was not a preaching unto repentance, but rather a preaching of condemnation (Hebrews 11:7b).
 - (2) Noah only built the ark to hold the animals and his family (Genesis 6:18); therefore, it was never intended to hold more occupants.
 - d. Noah's testimony was sufficient to communicate God's plan to his family and for them to work with him to build the ark and board it at the appointed time (Genesis 6:13-22; Genesis 7:1-10).

B. Lot's Testimony

1. His life
 - a. Lot was born in the Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 11:27-28). He left with his grandfather Terah and his uncle Abram and moved to Haran.
 - b. After his grandfather died in Haran, he journeyed with his uncle Abram to the land of promise.
2. His lesson
 - a. At some point, Lot traded his tents (Genesis 13:5) for more permanent dwellings (Genesis 19:3, 6, 8, 9-11).
 - b. He acquired a position in a wicked city, becoming a judge in the gate (Genesis 19:1, 9).
 - c. His indifference cost him his authority with those around him (Genesis 19:9, 12-14). He lost daughters and sons-in-law in the judgment of Sodom (Genesis 19:12-14). He lost his wife because of her disobedience (Genesis 19:26). His daughters committed incest with him (Genesis 19:31-38).
 - d. Lot must have known his decisions were wrong and that there was a will in him to do the right thing as the New Testament testifies of his "righteous" soul (2 Peter 2:7-8).
 - e. Regardless of how good of a communicator he was, his testimony ruined any chance at a good influence.

III. THE PRACTICALITY OF WISDOM—BEZALEEL AND SOLOMON

A. The Craftsmanship of Bezaleel

1. His obscurity—we have no reason to believe...
 - a. Bezaleel ever wrote a book of the Bible
 - b. Bezaleel ever wrote a psalm or song
 - c. Bezaleel ever had a leadership role in Israel's corporal worship
 - d. Bezaleel was ever called upon to lead in prayer
 - e. Bezaleel was ever asked to bring a Bible lesson or message
 - f. Bezaleel was ever called to sort out a disagreement on Bible truths
2. His notoriety
 - a. His calling—"the LORD spake...saying...I have called Bezaleel" (Exodus 31:1-2; Exodus 35:30)
 - b. His equipping—"I have filled him with the spirit of God" (Exodus 31:3-5; Exodus 35:31-34)
 - (1) In wisdom (Exodus 31:3; Exodus 35:31)
 - (2) In understanding (Exodus 31:3; Exodus 35:31)
 - (3) In knowledge (Exodus 31:3; Exodus 35:31)
 - (4) In all manner of workmanship (Exodus 31:3-5; Exodus 35:31-33, 35)
 - (5) In teaching, likely these trades (Exodus 35:34)
 - c. His stirring—"every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it" (Exodus 36:2)
 - d. His legacy—"Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel...had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD" (2 Chronicles 1:1-17, especially 2 Chronicles 1:5)

B. The Conversations of Solomon

1. His early testimony
 - a. His humility (1 Kings 3:5-15; 2 Chronicles 1:7-12)
 - (1) His lack of self-confidence (1 Kings 3:5-8)
 - (2) His request (1 Kings 3:9-15)
 - b. His wisdom (1 Kings 3:16-28)
 - (1) The opportunity for his wisdom (1 Kings 3:16-27)
 - (2) The fear of his wisdom (1 Kings 3:28)
 - (3) The excess of his wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-34)
2. His lasting testimony
 - a. It is truly astounding that with all the women in Solomon's life we only have record of him having one son.
 - b. It was to this son that he most likely penned his proverbs (see Proverbs 1:1-33).
 - c. Although the proverbs have helped many through the years to overcome sin and folly, the initial recipient struggled greatly, in part, due to the eyewitness of Solomon's way of life.

IV. THE PROVOCATION OF CONVICTION—EZRA

A. His Conviction

1. Ezra's preparation (Ezra 7:10)
 - a. He prepared his heart to *seek* the law of the Lord.
 - b. He prepared his heart to *do* the law of the Lord.
 - c. He prepared his heart to *teach* the law of the Lord.
 - d. Note: Consider the importance of this order. Before Ezra would ever teach the law of the Lord, he first had to be willing to study and obey it.
2. Ezra's burden
 - a. He was burdened to seek a right way for the people (Ezra 8:21).
 - b. He was burdened because of the sins of the people (Ezra 9:1-7; Ezra 10:1).

B. His Concern

1. The condition of the people
 - a. The people had mingled themselves with the people of the land (Ezra 9:1-2).
 - b. They were full of transgressions (Ezra 9:6-7).
2. The solution to the problem
 - a. Prayer (Ezra 10:1)
 - b. Return to the word of God (Ezra 10:3)

C. His Labour

1. To restore reverence (Nehemiah 8:1-6)
 - a. The people gathered together as one man (Nehemiah 8:1).
 - b. Ezra read the scripture from the morning until midday (Nehemiah 8:3).
 - c. All the people were attentive to the reading (Nehemiah 8:3).
 - d. Ezra stood upon a pulpit to read the scriptures (Nehemiah 8:4-5).
 - e. The people responded (Nehemiah 8:5-6).
2. To increase knowledge (Nehemiah 8:7-8)
 - a. They read in the book in the law of God, distinctly.
 - b. They gave the sense of the reading.
 - c. They caused the people to understand the reading.
3. To call for obedience (Nehemiah 8:9-18)
 - a. Their response to the law (Nehemiah 8:9-12)
 - (1) They wept (Nehemiah 8:9).
 - (2) They were called to rejoice (Nehemiah 8:10-12).
 - b. Their return to truth (Nehemiah 8:13-18)
 - (1) The feast discovered (Nehemiah 8:13-15)
 - (2) The feast observed (Nehemiah 8:16-18)