

BIBLIOGRAPHY

FOR
PREACHING THE GOSPELS

ADVENT 2008-2009

**Preacher,
We would
see Jesus!**



Holston Conference
The United Methodist Church

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I. THE HOLY BIBLE

Begin with your own reading of the sacred texts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Lay claim upon the text until the text lays claim upon you. Read at least one of the Synoptic Gospels and then John from start to finish during the year. Compare your favorite translation to a least one other translation. The first step is just you and the text: no commentaries, books, or sermons of others. There is no substitute for knowing for yourself the distinctive characteristics of the gospels and the compelling words and actions of Jesus. “Offer Them Christ” out of your overflow! The greatest freedom and power in the pulpit comes from the greatest discipline and meditation upon the Scriptures in the study. What does the text say to you? What does the text reveal about Jesus? What does the text reveal about human beings? What does the text say to the church? Is there a word of judgment or of grace? How does the text call you and others to change?

II. THE NEW INTERPRETER’S BIBLE

VOLS VIII (Matthew & Mark) AND IX (Luke-John), Abingdon, 1995.

This is the basic commentary which everyone is encouraged to purchase and use for lectionary texts and for non-lectionary texts. There are parallel translations from the New International Version and the New Revised Standard Version. There are Overviews, Commentary, and Reflections as you move through the text. This is a great place to go following your own reading and reflection on the text described in I. THE HOLY BIBLE. (In order to get the most out of this year, please make every effort to purchase these two volumes for use throughout the year. Seek them as birthday or Christmas presents! Churches are encouraged to provide at least \$100 for the purchase of these commentaries or other preaching helps.) Each preacher is challenged to read the full commentary on at least one of the Four Gospels during the year and to use these commentaries to research the Gospel text each week, whether it is from the lectionary or self-selected. Explore possible price reductions at District meetings, courtesy of Cokesbury.

Vol. VIII: “Matthew” by M. Eugene Boring
“Mark” by PHEME PERKINS

Vol. IX: “Luke” by R. Alan Culpepper
“John” by Gail R. O’Day

III. PREACHING FROM THE GOSPEL LECTIONARY

1. David Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, eds., *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B, Volume 1, Advent Through Transfiguration*, WJK, 2008. (First of a new 12-volume commentary series on the three lectionary cycles. Retail \$39.95 ea., Cokesbury subscription \$27.97 ea. Check individual volumes on amazon.com. Each text is reviewed in four separate perspectives: Theological, Pastoral, Exegetical, and Homiletical.
2. Roger E. Van Horn, ed., *The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday's Texts, The Gospels*, Eerdmans, 2001. (Covers cycles A, B, C)
3. Fred Craddock, et al, *Preaching Through the Christian Year B*, Trinity Press International, 1993.
4. David Lott, ed., *New Proclamation, Year B, 2008-09, Advent through Holy Week*. (Demo at newproclamation.com)
5. Numerous titles on Lectionary Preaching at csspub.com.
6. Each year Cokesbury publishes lectionary based Bible studies for Advent and for Lent. Excellent for group Bible studies or as helps for preaching.
7. WEBSITES

gbod.org/worship/ United Methodist site, General Board of Discipleship.

Textweek.com

clergyresources.net/index.html

webspawner.com/USERS/GREGORPAGE

IV. PREACHING FROM MATTHEW

1. Douglas R. A. Hare, *Matthew, (Interpretation Commentary)*, WJK, 1993.
2. Alyce M. McKenzie, *Matthew, (Interpretation Bible Studies)*, WJK, 1999.
3. Richard A. Jensen, *Preaching Matthew's Gospel*, CSS Pub., 1998.
4. David May and Mike Graves, *Preaching Matthew: Love, Justice, and Social Responsibility*, Chalice Press.
5. Barbara Brown Taylor, *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew*, Westminster, 2004.
6. Robert E. Luccock, *Preaching Through Matthew: Expository Reflections*, 1980. (Out of print; amazon.com has several copies.)
7. Stanley Hauerwas, *Matthew*, Brazos Press, 2006.
8. William Barclay, *Matthew*, 2 vols., Westminster (Daily Bible Study Series).

V. PREACHING FROM MARK

1. William Barclay, *Mark*, Westminster (Daily Bible Study Series).
2. Dave Bland & David Fleeer, eds., *Preaching Mark's Unsettling Messiah*, Chalice Press, 2006. (Features scholars Morna Hooker and Fred Craddock.)
3. Lamar Williamson, *Mark, (Interpretation Commentary)*, John Knox Press, 1983.
4. Morna D. Hooker, *The Gospel According to Saint Mark*, Hendrickson Publishers, 1992.
5. Dawn Wilhelm, *Preaching the Gospel of Mark: Proclaiming the Power of God*, WJK, 2008.
6. Richard L. Deibert, *Mark, (Interpretation Bible Studies)*, WJK, 1999.
7. Richard A. Jensen, *Preaching Mark's Gospel*, CSS Pub., 1996.

VI. PREACHING FROM LUKE

1. Keith F. Nickle, *Preaching the Gospel of Luke: Proclaiming God's Royal Rule*, WJK, 2000.
2. William Barclay, *Luke*, Westminster, 2001.
3. Richard A. Jensen, *Preaching Luke's Gospel*, CSS Pub., 1997.
4. Fred B. Craddock, *Luke (Interpretation Commentary)*, WJK, 1991.
5. Thomas W. Walker, *Luke (Interpretation Bible Studies)*, WJK, 2002.
6. Robert C. Tannehill, *Luke*, Abingdon (*New Testament Commentaries*).

VII. PREACHING FROM JOHN

1. Gerard S. Sloyan, *John (Interpretation Commentary)*, WJK, 1987.
2. William Barclay, *John*, 2 vols., Westminster. (Daily Bible Study Series)
3. Robert Kysar, *Preaching John*, 2002, Augsburg Fortress, 2002.
4. Lamar Williamson, Jr., *Preaching the Gospel of John*, WJK, 2004.
5. D. Moody Smith, Jr., *John (Abingdon NT Commentaries)*, Abingdon, 1999.
6. Frances Taylor Gench, *Encounters with Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of John*, John Knox Press.
7. E. Stanley Jones, *The Word Became Flesh*, Abingdon, 2006 (Reissue of a classic!).
8. Gail R. O'Day, *The Word Disclosed: Preaching the Gospel of John*, Chalice, 2002.
9. R. Alan Culpepper, *The Gospel and Letters of John*, Abingdon, 1998.
10. Peter Wallace, *Living Loved (John)*, Seabury.
11. David Fleer & Dave Bland, eds, *Preaching John's Gospel: The World It Imagines*, Chalice Press, 2008. (6 essays on preaching John and 16 sermons.)

VIII. PREACHING FROM THE PARABLES OF JESUS

1. Klyne Snodgrass, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus*, Eerdmans, 2008. A monumental book, the product of a long career. Snodgrass examines the history of parable interpretation and deals with the technical issues and then concludes each study with a clear statement of the intent of the parable.
2. Arland J. Hultgren, *The Parables of Jesus: A Commentary*, Eerdmans, 2000.
3. John Indermark, *Parables and Passion (Jesus' Stories for the Days of Lent)*, Upper Room Books, 2006.
4. Paul Simpson Duke, *The Parables (The Great Texts, A Preaching Commentary)*, Abingdon, 2005.
5. William Barclay, *And Jesus Said: A Handbook on the Parables of Jesus*, 1970 (*The Parables of Jesus*, 1999).
6. Maxie Dunnam, *Twelve Parables of Jesus: Bible Study for Christian Living*, Abingdon, 2006.
7. Robert F. Capon, *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment: Paradox, Outrage and Vindication in the Parables of Jesus* (3 books in 1), Eerdmans, 2002.
8. David Buttrick, *Speaking Parables: A Homiletic Guide*, WJK, 2000.
9. Dennis Smith & Michael Williams, *The Storyteller's Companion, Vol. 11, The Parables of Jesus*, Abingdon.
10. James W. Moore (Sermons)
 - “Jesus’ Parables of Grace,” *Dimensions of Living*, 2004.
 - “Jesus’ Parables of Life,” *Dimensions of Living*, 2005.
 - “Jesus’ Parables of the Lost and Found,” *Dimensions of Living*, 2006.
 - “Jesus’ Parables About Making Choices,” *Dimensions of Living*, 2008.
11. John Claypool, *Stories Jesus Still Tells: The Parables*, Columbia U., 2001.
12. Earl F. Palmer, *Laughter in Heaven: Understanding Jesus' Parables*, Regent College Pub., 2004.
13. Richard N. Longnecker, ed., *The Challenge of Jesus' Parables*, Eerdmans.
14. Mark Trotter, *What Are You Waiting For? Sermons on the Parables of Jesus*, Abingdon, 1992. (Out of print; amazon.com has several.)
15. J. Ellsworth Kalas, *Parables of Jesus*, Abingdon, 1998.
See also *Parables From the Backside* by Kalas, Abingdon.

IX. PREACHING FROM THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

1. M. Eugene Boring, "Excursus: Interpreting the Miracle Stories in Matthew," *The New Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. VIII, pp. 241-251. Excellent article.
2. David Otto, *The Miracles of Jesus*, Abingdon, 2000.
3. Jeffrey John, *The Meaning in the Miracles*, Eerdmans, 2001.
4. John Brokhoff, *Preaching the Miracles*, CSS Pub., 1991.
5. James O. Gillom, *Walking on Water: Sermons on the Miracles of Jesus*, Abingdon, 1995. (Out of print; amazon.com has several copies.)
6. William Barclay, *And He Had Compassion*, Westminster, 1976.
7. CSS Publishing Company has several titles, usually featuring the miracles for the lectionary cycles.

X. PREACHING FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. See the books under Matthew and Luke above.
2. William Barclay, *The Beatitudes and the Lord's Prayer for Everyman*, 1975. (Amazon.com has several.)
3. David Buttrick, *Speaking Jesus: Homiletic Theology and the Sermon on the Mount*, WJK, 2002.
4. J. Ellsworth Kalas, *The Beatitudes from the Back Side*, Abingdon.
5. William Willimon, Stanley Hauerwas, Scott Saye, *Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer and the Christian Life*, Abingdon, 1996.
6. James C. Howell, *The Beatitudes for Today*, WJK, 2005.
7. Leonard Sweet, *Jesus Drives Me Crazy*, Zondervan, 2003.
8. James W. Moore, *When All Else Fails ... Read the Instructions*, DfL, 1993.
9. Maxie Dunnam, *The Workbook on the Beatitudes*, Upper Room, 2005.

XI. PREACHING ON THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS

1. William Willimon, *Thank God It's Friday: Encountering the Seven Last Words From the Cross*, Abingdon.
2. Peter J. Gomes, *The Preaching of the Passion: The Seven Last Words from the Cross*, Forward Movement Publications, 2002 (See www.forwardmovement.org).
3. Fleming Rutledge, *The Seven Last Words from the Cross*, Eerdmans, 2004.
4. Robert D. Cornwall, *A Cry from the Cross: Sermons from the 7 Last Words of Christ*, CSS, 2008.
5. Stanley Hauerwas, *Cross-Shattered Christ: Meditations on the Seven Last Words*, Brazos, 2005.
6. Peter Storey, *Listening at Golgotha: Jesus' Last Words from the Cross*, Upper Room, 2004.
7. See the Commentaries on the Four Gospels above.

XII. GENERAL BOOKS ON THE IMPACT OF CHRIST

1. David Buttrick, *Speaking Conflict: Stories of Controversial Jesus*, John Knox.
2. Christopher Maricle, *The Jesus Priorities: 8 Essential Habits*, Upper Room.
3. Robert Corin Morris, *Provocative Grace: The Challenge of Jesus' Words*, Upper Room.
4. John R. Claypool, *The First to Follow: The Apostles of Jesus*, Abingdon, 2008
5. *The Pastor's Bible Study*, Vols. 1-5, Abingdon.
6. William Barclay, *The Mind of Jesus*
7. *Jesus in the Gospels*, DISCIPLE Second Generation Studies, Cokesbury.
8. James S. Stewart, *The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ*, Abingdon, 2000. (Reissue of a classic)

XIII. HOMILETIC MAGAZINES

1. *The Living Pulpit* (Theme Based Issues) www.pulpit.org
2. *Pulpit Digest* (6 issues per year, 12 sermons per issue) Check with Logos Productions, Inc.
3. *Pulpit Resource*, Ed., William Willimon. Available in CD-ROM, Print, and Online. Pulpitresource.com.
4. *Homiletics Magazine*, ed. by Timothy Merrill (formerly Leonard Sweet). Homileticonline.com. Access to monthly issues and 15 years of past issues online.

XIV. THEOLOGY IN THE UNITED METHODIST TRADITION

1. William Willimon, *United Methodist Beliefs*, WJK, 2007.
2. William Willimon, *Who Will Be Saved?* Abingdon, 2008.
3. William Willimon, *A Guide to Preaching and Leading Worship*, WJK.
4. James Logan, *How Great A Flame! Contemporary Lessons from the Wesleyan Revival*, Discipleship Resources, 2005.
5. Rueben P. Job, *Three Simple Rules*, Abingdon, 2007.
6. Kenneth L. Carder, *Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way*, Discipleship Resources, 1996.
7. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., *John Wesley: Holiness of Heart and Life*, Women's Division, GBGM, 1996.
8. William Willimon, *Sunday Dinner: The Lord's Supper and the Christian Life*, Upper Room, 1981.
9. William Willimon, *Remember Who You Are: Baptism, A Model for Christian Life*, Upper Room, 1980.
10. F. Belton Joyner, Jr., *United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers*, WJK, 2007.
11. James C. Howell, *The Life We Claim: The Apostle's Creed for Preaching, Teaching and Worship*, Abingdon, 2005.
12. Gayle Carlton Felton, *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*, Discipleship Resources, 2005.
13. Gayle Carlton Felton, *By Water and the Spirit (Official Study of the UMC Understanding of Baptism)*, Abingdon, 2002
14. Scott Jones, *United Methodist Doctrine: The Extreme Center*, Abingdon, 2002

XV. COMPILER'S NOTE

Several years ago, Ottalee's mother gave me a small plaque which reads, "I would rather be a poor man in a garret with plenty of books than a king who did not love reading." I confess that I have often been poor from the purchase of books, but I have enjoyed spiritual riches the world can neither give nor take away. This Bibliography, lengthy as it is, does not contain many favorite works of the past seventy-five years which would be of great value. I have tried to include books currently in print or recently out-of-print titles which are readily available. Please use what you already have that you have found worthy, and select some of the books from the Bibliography which would help you communicate the grace upon grace that is found in Jesus Christ. Perhaps you could use the list to start your own Book-of-the-Month Club!

The purpose of "Offer Them Christ" from Advent 2008 through 2009 is to help all Holston Conference clergy to become better students and preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we become better communicators of this powerful good news, the church will be more empowered to make disciples for the transformation of the world. I am convinced that this emphasis can make a difference in the ministry of any preacher who takes seriously the challenge to preach for a year from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I am convinced that it can help move some of our churches from maintenance to mission, from cultural captivity to Kingdom life. I am convinced it can attract some new disciples. John recorded Jesus as saying, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (12:32) John noted that Jesus said this "to indicate the kind of death he was to die." (12:33) Being "lifted up" is surely about the cross, but as John presents the hour of Jesus' glory, it is also about being "lifted up" in resurrection and about being "lifted up" in ascension. Jesus is lifted up on the cross; He is lifted up from the grave; He is lifted up in glory. Wherever we lift up Christ today, He becomes a holy magnet, full of grace, drawing people out of despair into joy, out of doubt into faith, out of death into life. Offer them Christ!

Respectfully,
Grady C. Winegar