

Preaching for Beginners

A Preaching Model - How to Exegete a Passage (STAGE 1: PASSAGE)

How do I get out of the text what it wants to say? We are going to use Luke 9:51-62 to help us do that.

Prayer

- In all we are about to do, we should pray.
- If we are doing the work of God, then we must ensure that we are talking to God about it – Pray.
- If you want to talk to people about God, then first talk to God about what you are going to say to people.

STAGE 1: PASSAGE

- Stage 1 helps us understand the Passage in its *literary context*.

Read the Passage

- Read, read and re-read the passage prayerfully. Why is this important?
- Mark the text (circle, highlight, underline etc.).
- Break the passage into logical sections.
- Jot down points of interest.
- Look for words that seem important, or repeated, or give reason, or time frames.
- Who is in the passage?
- What is the passage about?
- Don't worry about application at this point.

The questions you can ask to help yourself at this stage of preparation are:

1. What seems *interesting* in this passage?
2. What am I *unsure* about in this passage?
3. What is the passage all *about* in one sentence?

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EXERCISE

Read and mark Luke 9:51-62 and answer the following questions

NIV Luke 9:51-62 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they went to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

ESV Luke 9:51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

1. What seems interesting in Luke 9:51-62?
2. What am I unsure about in Luke 9:51-62?
3. What is Luke 9:51-62 all about?

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Flowcharting

Re-Read the Passage

- Still in Stage 1, keep reading the passage and make sure you recognize the *style of writing*.
- Different parts of the same newspaper have different *styles of writing*, and different purposes. These are examples of different 'genres' – that is, different styles of writing with specific purposes.
- When understanding the Bible – it is helpful to define the 'genre' of your passage.
- Here are 5 important biblical 'genres' – Narrative, Poetry, Epistle (Letter), Prophecy and Apocalyptic.

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EXERCISE

Read the following Bible Passages – write down what is distinctive about the 'Genre' (the style of writing).

Genre	Example	What is distinctive about this 'Genre' (style of writing)
Narrative	Luke 9:51-62	
Poetry	Songs of Songs 4:1-3	
Epistle	Philippians 1:1-11	
Prophecy	Jeremiah 1:1-8	
Apocalyptic	Revelation 12:1-6	