

Preach (*Herald*) the Word

2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

Paul commanded Timothy to “Preach the Word” (2 Tim. 4:2). Timothy was not to preach his own opinions, or share his own beliefs or ideas or thoughts. His solemn responsibility was to proclaim what God had said, with much clarity and authority. The preacher’s job is to communicate clearly what God has said: “Preach the Word.” The word “preach” means “to proclaim, to announce, to herald.”



How did people get the news in ancient times before newspapers, radio, television, internet and Twitter? When a king wanted a message delivered to his subjects, he would send a herald. The herald’s job was to deliver messages from the king. He would come into a town; the people would quickly gather together with great curiosity. They wanted to hear the latest news of the kingdom. The herald might begin, “Hear ye, hear ye! Thus saith the king!” It could be a message of bad news (“The enemy is invading our land”) or good news (“We won the battle”). The herald would never share his own ideas or beliefs or opinions. His job was simple: give the people the king’s message loudly and clearly. He did not need to interpret the message. He did not need to add to it. The herald’s job was not to originate the message but to simply deliver it. He was not to reformulate the message; he was to simply communicate it. It was the king’s message; he just had to make it known.

After a church service, someone might say or think, “I didn’t like the Pastor’s message today.” Be careful about saying such a thing. If the Pastor is being a faithful herald, then what you are really saying is this: “I didn’t like the King’s message today. I didn’t like what God said in His Word.”

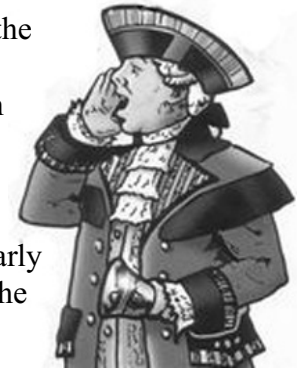
Perish the thought!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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