

Young Adults
Special Lesson: “A Time to Preach”
Date: 10.07.2024

Opening Questions: *(Take 5-7 minutes to discuss these four questions at your tables)*

- 1) What is preaching?
- 2) What is the difference between preaching and teaching?
- 3) Who can preach?
- 4) Who can teach?

I. Defining “Preaching” & “Teaching” According to The New Testament

A. Scriptures that clearly differentiate “preaching” from “teaching”:

Matthew 4:23 – And he went throughout all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Matthew 11:1 – When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to **teach** and **preach** in their cities.

Luke 20:1 – One day, as Jesus was **teaching** the people in the temple and **preaching** the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up.

Acts 15:35 – But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, **teaching** and **preaching** the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Acts 28:30-31 – He [Paul] lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,³¹ **proclaiming** the kingdom of God and **teaching** about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

B. A closer look at the Greek words that are often translated as “preach / proclaim” and “teach.”

Preach:

εὐαγγελίζω (euangelizō)

- Occurrences in the New Testament: 54
- Semantic Range (potential definitions): to preach, (bring) the good news (gospel), often with a focus on the content of the message which is brought. In the NT it always refers to the death, burial, resurrection, and witness about Jesus Christ, including its implications for humankind's relationship to God. [Bill Mounce]

κηρύσσω (kēryssō)

- Occurrences in the New Testament: 61
- Semantic Range (potential definitions): to proclaim as a herald; to announce openly and publicly; to preach. [Bill Mounce]

Teach :

διδάσκω (didaskō)

- Occurrences in the New Testament: 97
- Semantic Range (potential definitions): to teach, instruct, to provide information in a manner intended to produce understanding, either in a formal or informal setting. [Bill Mounce]

II. What Message Was Preached?

- **Matthew 4:17** – From that time Jesus began **to preach**, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- **Matthew 4:23** – And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
- **Matthew 10:5-7** – These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And **proclaim** as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’
- **Mark 1:4-7** – John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and **proclaiming** a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he **preached**, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.
- **Luke 4:17-18** – And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me **to proclaim** good news to the poor. He has sent me **to proclaim** liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ **to proclaim** the year of the Lord's favor.”
- **Luke 4:42-44** – And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, “I must **preach** the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” ⁴⁴ And he was **preaching** in the synagogues of Judea
- **Luke 8:1** – Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, **proclaiming** and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him.
- **Luke 20:1** – One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and **preaching** the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up.
- **Acts 5:42** – And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and **preaching** that the Christ is Jesus.
- **Acts 10:39-43** – (Peter speaking to Cornelius and his household.) And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to **preach** to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.
- **Acts 14:15** – Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we **bring** you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.
- **II Corinthians 4:5** – For what we **proclaim** is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

III. Who Preached?

- **Matthew 3:1-2** – In those days John the Baptist came **preaching** in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- **Matthew 9:35** – And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.
- **Mark 1:40-45** – 40 And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean... 45 But he went out and began **to talk freely** about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.
- **Mark 5:16-20** – And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ And he went away and began **to proclaim** in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.
- **Mark 6:7&12** – And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 12 So they went out and **proclaimed** that people should repent.
- **Mark 7:32-36** – ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they **proclaimed** it.
- **Luke 24:36&46-47** – 36 As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them (the twelve and other gathered disciples), and said to them, “Peace to you!”... 46 And said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be **proclaimed** in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- **John 4:28-30** – So the woman (woman at the well) left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” ³⁰ They went out of the town and were coming to him.
- **John 20:17-18** – [Post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene.] Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and **announced** to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.
- **Acts 8:1-4** – And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ⁴ Now those who were scattered went about **preaching** the word.
- **Acts 8:5** – Philip went down to the city of Samaria and **proclaimed** to them the Christ.
- **Acts 9:19-22** – For some days he (Saul) was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he **proclaimed** Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.
- **Romans 10:14-15** – ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone **preaching**? ¹⁵ And how are they to **preach** unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who **preach** the good news!”

IV. Who Did They Preach To?

- **Mark 1:38-39** – And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may **preach** there also, for that is why I came out.”³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.
- **Mark 5:20** – And he went away and began to **proclaim** in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.
- **Luke 24:36&46-47** – As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them (the twelve and other gathered disciples), and said to them, “Peace to you!”... 46 And said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be **proclaimed** in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
- **Acts 8:5** – Philip went down to the city of Samaria and **proclaimed** to them the Christ.
- **Galatians 2:2** – I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the **gospel** that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain.

V. How Mature in Christ Were They Before They Preached?

- **Mark 1:40-45** – And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, “If you will, you can make me clean.” 41 Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, “I will; be clean.” 42 And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, 44 and said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them.” 45 But he went out and began **to talk freely** about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.
- **Mark 5:16-20** – And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. 17 And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 And he went away and began to **proclaim** in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.
- **Mark 6:7-12** – [This account is a very short time after Jesus called the 12 to follow Him] And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. 8 He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— 9 but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. 10 And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. 11 And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” 12 So they went out and **proclaimed** that people should repent.
- **Acts 9:19-22** – (Immediate prior context is Saul’s conversion on the Road to Damascus) For some days he (Saul) was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he **proclaimed** Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?”

VI. Who Taught & What Was Taught?

- **Matthew 5:1-2** – Seeing the crowds, he [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and **taught** them, saying: [Sermon on the Mount follows]
- **Mark 11:17** – And he was **teaching** them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”
- **Mark 12:14** – And they came and said to him [Jesus], “**Teacher**, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly **teach** the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?”
- **Mark 12:35-37** – 35 And as Jesus **taught** in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David? 36 David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.” 37 David himself calls him Lord. So how is he his son?” And the great throng heard him gladly.
- **Luke 11:1** – Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, **teach** us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”
- **Luke 12:12** – for the Holy Spirit will **teach** you in that very hour what you ought to say.
- **Acts 4:1-2** – And as they were speaking [John and Peter] to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ²greatly annoyed because they were **teaching** the people and **proclaiming** in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.
- **Acts 11:25-26** – So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and **taught** a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
- **Acts 18:24-25** – Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and **taught** accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.
- **Romans 12:6-8** – Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his **teaching**; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
- **I Corinthians 12:28** – And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third **teachers**, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.
- **Ephesians 4:11-13** – And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and **teachers**, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
- **Colossians 1:28-29** – Him we proclaim, warning everyone and **teaching** everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I [Paul] toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.
- **I Timothy 3:1-2** – The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to **teach**...
- **II Timothy 2:2** – You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to **teach** others also.
- **Hebrews 5:11-12** – About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be **teachers**, you need someone to **teach** you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food...
- **James 3:1** – Not many of you should become **teachers**, my brothers, for you know that we who **teach** will be judged with greater strictness.

VII. Putting It All Together

A. Why does this distinction between preaching & teaching matter?

- 1) The lack of distinction has produced a **false dichotomy** between “church leaders” and “church participants.”
 - Church leaders = the only ones who have something to say in our worship gatherings. They are the only ones who are qualified to preach & teach. They are viewed as the “contributors.”
 - Church participation = the recipients, the audience, or the listeners. They are viewed as the “consumers.”
- 2) If Pastor Andrew is the only one “preaching” in Young Adults, then Young Adults has a problem. God has given you a story, a testimony, a spiritual journey that needs to be shared!
- 3) If you identify as a follower of Jesus, then you are CALLED to preach! Jesus doesn’t call people to follow Him to then only have them become benchwarmers for Team Jesus.

B. Returning to our opening questions, let’s give answering them another shot:

- 1) What is preaching?
Answer: Announcing the Good News (gospel) that Jesus Christ is King & Savior and His Kingdom has come. It also encompasses a public testifying to all that Jesus has done in your life.
- 2) What is the difference between preaching and teaching?
Answer: Preaching is announcing / proclaiming what you have personally experienced in Christ and how others can also have such an experience. Teaching requires proficiency with a set of knowledge. Teaching seeks to provide, explain, and apply biblical truth in a manner intended to produce true understanding and life change.
- 3) Who can preach?
Answer: Anyone and everyone who is in Christ. Anyone can preach!
- 4) Who can teach?
Answer: Christ-followers who are wise, mature in the faith, knowledgeable/learned in the Scriptures, and spiritually gifted as teachers.

C. Summary quote to help synthesize all that we have learned:

[If you have a story of encountering Christ, His power, His Kingdom then you are qualified to preach, even if you can’t fully explain the experience. Far too many of God’s people neglect this calling because we have incorrectly made it the domain of trained experts, and this has profoundly warped our church gatherings into a time when nearly everyone is silent and only one person – the one possessing the most knowledge – is permitted to speak.

Don’t misunderstand me. Teaching is an important [even vital] aspect of the church’s calling, and we should not neglect it. But when only one person is expected to arrive to the gathering with something to share, what are we communicating about the value of everyone else? Proclaiming the present reality of God’s Kingdom – announcing how we have seen and experienced His love, power, and mercy – is not the domain of the elite or the educated. It is the calling of every one of Christ’s people. Anyone [in Christ] can preach.]

D. Vision for Young Adults Moving Forward: “A Time to Preach”

Life Group Questions:

- 1) What aspect of tonight's lesson was new, challenging, confusing, or convicting to you?
- 2) Why does making a distinction between preaching & teaching matter? How has a lack of distinction negatively impacted the church?
- 3) Given our newly discovered understanding of preaching, what are some settings where you could "preach?" What are some things that you could "preach" about? What are some fears, reservations, or barriers that might hold you back from preaching?
- 4) Our lesson also affirmed the importance of "teaching." Where do most Americans go to for spiritual teaching? Do you think those resources are biblically solid and trustworthy? Why / why not? What are some of your go-to resources for biblically sound spiritual teaching?