



Preaching and Preachers

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

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'Some may object to my dogmatic assertions; but I do not apologize for them. Every preacher should believe strongly in his own method; and if I cannot persuade all of the rightness of mine, I can at least stimulate them to think and to consider other possibilities. I can say quite honestly that I would not cross the road to listen to myself preaching, and the preachers whom I have enjoyed most have been very different indeed in their method and style. But my business is not to describe them but to state what I believe to be right, however imperfectly I have put my own precepts into practice. I can only hope that the result will be of some help, and especially to young preachers called to this greatest of all tasks, and especially in these sad and evil times. With many others I pray that 'The Lord of the harvest may thrust forth' many mighty preachers to proclaim 'the unsearchable riches of Christ!'

Preaching and Preachers Details

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From Reader Review Preaching and Preachers for online ebook

Eric Durso says

Great, inspiring, and controversial. Here's one I'll come back to regularly.

Robert Wegner says

This classic book by Dr. Jones is most excellent. He never beats around the bush but hits every issue head on with no reservation. He makes helpful points concerning spiritual preparation, sermon preservation, and certain details concerning the preaching of God's Word.

Dr. Jones is known for being rather confident, which helps his listeners and readers know what he's thinking. This also makes it evident when some disagree with him on some points. Some will agree and others will disagree with Dr. Jones, but everyone can respect his opinion and reasoning.

I would recommend this book to all who are entering or beginning preaching ministry. I assume that years down the road I will review this book to see how I'm doing, as I'm sure others have done.

Jeff Shelnutt says

“What is the chief end of preaching?” asks Lloyd-Jones. “I like to think it is this. It is to give men and women a sense of God and His presence.”

And it is to this end the the author draws from his own vast experience to instruct others who are called to preach. This book reads exactly like what it is: a compilation of lectures given by Lloyd-Jones to theological students in 1969.

Mincing no words, the author is opinionated and direct, logic-driven yet passionate. There is plenty here with which to take issue. There is much, much more to consider, reflect upon and apply to the pulpit. That's why Warren Wiersbe said about this book, “I urge my fellow preachers to read this book at least twice; once to disagree and once to be helped.”

Lloyd-Jones covers multiple facets, from the supremacy of preaching to the character of the preacher; from the preparation of the sermon to the pitfalls every preacher should avoid. Above all he stresses that without the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the favor of God, one's time and labor over a sermon are in vain.

Preaching and Preachers has become a classic because it has challenged, helped and encouraged numerous pastors since its publication. It has done so because Lloyd-Jones was a man whose pulpit ministry was used of the Lord. Therefore, he has something to share--and something worth hearing.

One particularly helpful section deals with the importance of the minister reading frequently and widely. *“There is ample material; indeed the preacher’s great difficulty is to find sufficient time for reading; it is a constant battle.”*

Lloyd-Jones was a serious and thoroughly biblical expositor. He criticized humor from the pulpit and

downplayed what's become staple in evangelical circles: the altar call. He had his critics. But he also had their respect and admiration.

Referring to the “romance” of preaching, Lloyd-Jones writes, “*There is nothing like it. It is the greatest work in the world, the most thrilling, the most exciting, the most rewarding, and the most wonderful.*” He would also be quick to add that it’s not for everyone. Only those called of the Lord to preach should do so. But to those who are (or those who want to understand those who are), this book will resonate the soul with its insight, exhortations and wisdom.

“*What matters [in preaching]? The chief thing is the love of God, the love of souls, a knowledge of the truth, and the Holy Spirit within you. These are the things that make a preacher.*”

Ian Rees says

This was a life-shaping book for me. I had a sense of God's call to preach and this was the first book I read to help me understand what it is all about. It was from him that I gained a sense of the heavenly calling of the preacher. I had to learn that no-one else can preach like him and that he had very particular views on what a preacher should or shouldn't do (e.g. he said a preacher shouldn't collect funny stories or illustrations because that would be too professional and might tempt a preacher to merely entertain the congregation), but the advice he gives is still interesting. Read it to get a passion for preaching the word.

Zack says

Deeply convicting. Lloyd-Jones has given us an extended illustration of the primary function of the church in every age. Preachers, whatever your theological persuasion, this book will push you, and maybe even offend you, at points. But it ought also to inspire you.

David Steele says

Preaching and Preachers by Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones is a wonderful book that emphasizes the man more than the art of preaching and spiritual preparation more than sermon preparation. The author contends that the most urgent trend in the church and world is true preaching. While the book was published in 1971, I believe the Doctor would cling to his original statement if he were alive today.

The author discusses the reason for preaching’s decline and makes the case for the priority of preaching based on Scripture and church history. The Doctor contends that the primary task in preaching is to put man into a right relationship with God, to reconcile man to God. Everything else in ministry flows from being faithful to the primary purpose, namely – preaching.

The author distinguishes between the kerygma – evangelistic preaching from the didache, or preaching that deals primarily with the edification of believers. Either way, preaching must always be based on a theological foundation and must not violently impose a theological system upon the text. Rather the system of theology should be used as a filter to check a particular interpretation.

All sermons should be expository. Dr. Lloyd-Jones begins with the initial text and walks the reader through his exegetical procedure. Once a doctrine is thoroughly explored, the preacher must consider the relevance of the doctrine and the people who will be listening. He writes, “You are to show that this message is vitally important for them and that they must listen with the whole of their being, because this is really going to help them.”

“The chief end of preaching is to give men and women a sense of God and His presence.” The preacher must therefore stand in the pulpit with authority and exude a sense of seriousness, warmth, urgency, persuasiveness and power.

The author discusses how the preacher must prepare himself. He contends that preachers must maintain a general discipline of life and an attitude of prayer. He adds that serious preachers need to regularly read the Bible systematically and maintain good reading habits that include a study of theology, church history, biographies and apologetics.

This book has many strong points. First, it is immensely personal. The author truly shares from the heart. Second, the section on “calling” is very helpful, especially to younger preachers. Next, Dr. Lloyd-Jones encourages preachers to beware of extremes in our post-modern era. Further, the author’s passion for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ rings true on every page which motivates this preacher to do the same. Finally, I especially appreciate the repeated emphasis on relying on the Holy Spirit.

With the rise of the so-called emergent church, watered-down teaching and preaching, doctrinal compromise, and the downplaying of authoritative proclamation, *Preaching and Preachers* is welcome and needed reminder of the necessity of Christ-saturated, uncompromising preaching. Soli Deo Gloria!

John Yelverton says

I felt the book was very conflicted in it's advice to young ministers and was really not worth the time.

Troy Solava says

This is a phenomenal book. As any reader of this book, I disagree with some of MLJ’s opinions on preaching and church services. But apart from a few of those minor points, this work has deeply impacted me.

MLJ captures the character and purpose of preaching well. He does not apologize for the Word, but rather argues that the entire church is to sit reverently under the Preaching of the Word. This is where the people encounter God in a unique way.

Chapters I gleaned from:

- Ch 14- against Altar Calls and emotionalism
- Ch 5- the act of preaching (qualities of delivery)
- Ch 9- the preparation of the preacher

Brantley Rutz says

A must read for pastors and those called to the pastorate. While I don't agree with everything "the Doctor" says, I believe he does a phenomenal job espousing in great detail the seriousness of the preacher and the dire need of true preaching.

If you are called to preach, read this book.

Scott says

About "Preaching & Preachers" Warren Wiersbe said, "I urge my fellow preachers to read this book at least twice: once to disagree and once to be helped."

I think this most adequately describes my feelings toward my first read of P&P. This was my first foray into the world of DM Lloyd-Jones and I did not know what to expect except for the fact that most preachers I admire, admire Lloyd-Jones.

At this time I don't feel like giving an in depth review, but instead will give some general thoughts that I appreciated. I've thought about engaging with some of his thought in regards to the primacy of the preacher and the rest of the congregation, but for now just a couple of thoughts.

-First and foremost, the chapter on the calling of the preacher is worth the price of the book alone. That chapter will be the place that I start forwarding friends who tell me that they think they're called to be pastors.

-I found it interesting how much he knew, quoted, and admired the history of saints of old. His admiration for Whitefield came out in just about every chapter. Same with Spurgeon. Definitely reminded me why I love church history so much.

-He is the most extreme person I've ever read. Every opinion he has is strong. To be honest though, it made him that much more fun to read.

-His love for people, which in turn motivates his love gospel preaching, is incredibly admirable. He cares ultimately for the people who sit under preaching, and the methods used should magnify the gospel and serve the congregation to hear and respond to the gospel.

There really is so much that could be said, but this review is not that place. To conclude, I'll say that I enjoyed this book, but can see myself enjoying it much more if I were pastoring a church.

Bill says

MLJ's classic on preaching was more readable than I expected! Inspiring and encouraging, practical and anecdotal, passionate and biblical. Because Lloyd-Jones is so black and white about every issue, he is entertaining to read - you either agree wholeheartedly or disagree wholeheartedly. A few highlights:

- I really appreciate his passionate defence of preaching as the primary and central activity of ministry.
- The purpose of preaching: A transforming encounter with God.
- The content of preaching: The gospel. "Preaching must be theological", i.e. instead of preaching individual texts in isolation, preach the whole plan of salvation all the time.
- Good chapter on the call to ministry ("Chapter Six - The Preacher"). I would think that someone considering ministry could read this chapter and leave the whole book until later.
- "Preach the gospel, don't preach about the gospel", i.e. apply it directly to your hearers.
- Various firmly held positions on disputable matters: discussion groups are wrong, any reasoning in evangelistic preaching is wrong, evangelistic and instructional preaching must be kept separate, etc etc.
- Good reminder that there will always be non-Christians in every church.
- Great division between the weekly preparation of the preacher (prayer, personal bible reading, reading widely) and the weekly preparation of the sermon.
- Lots of very practical comments giving MLJ's opinion about various specific matters (notes vs full text, illustrations, patterns of preparation, preparing series, etc etc)
- Preachers should not directly pressure the will, but first address the mind (convince of the truth) and then the affections (help feel the weight of the issue) and so only indirectly the will. "Obedience is the result of an enlightened mind and a softened heart"
- Memorable final chapter on the "unction the Holy Spirit" in preaching.
- The 2011 edition was helpful I think. The section heading were particularly helpful, and the brief essays helped clarify and highlight some of the most memorable aspects of the book.

Daniel Ligon says

If you've ever had a favorite professor, and it didn't matter what he was teaching, you just enjoyed sitting and listening to him- that's what it feels like to read this book! *Preaching and Preachers* is a compilation of a series of lectures D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (toward the end of his ministry) gave at Westminster Theological Seminary in 1969. Don't worry, it doesn't feel dated! Jones critiques many things in the Evangelical movement of his day and says that he's seen them all before under different names. Things come full circle, and nearly 50 years later, churches are still dealing with the same false teachings, repackaged and made to look fresh. Perhaps the thing I love most about this book is how opinionated Jones is! I don't agree with all of his opinions, but it is refreshing to hear someone speak so bluntly and step on some toes. While this book isn't written as a manual to teach you how to prepare a sermon, it will make you a better preacher if you engage with its truths.

Drew Miller says

There isn't much I can say about this book that others haven't. It is a must read for new and old pastors alike as well as those contemplating pastoral ministry. This book reaffirmed my lack of calling to pastoral ministry but as someone who desires to disciple young men, some of which may be called to ministry, this book was extremely helpful. Dr Martyn Lloyd Jones is extremely dogmatic, which I love. While I do not agree with everything he says in this book I do agree with the majority of it. In our day in age so much attention is put on small groups that we have diminished the importance of preaching. This book is timely in calling us back to a right reverence of preaching as that is and will always be God's means of calling sinners to Himself along with building up the church. My favorite chapter was 14 "Calling For Decisions". This is a topic that I have felt uneasy about even when I was not a Christian.

The following quote really stuck out to me:

"I go on to assert as my tenth point that no sinner ever really 'decides for Christ'. That term 'decide' has always seemed to me to be quite wrong. I have often heard people use expressions which have disturbed me, and made me feel very unhappy. They have generally done so in ignorance and with the best intentions. I can think of an old man who often used the following expression: 'You know, friends, I decided for Christ forty years ago, and I have never regretted it.' What a terrible thing to say! 'Never regretted it!' But that is the kind of thing people say who have been brought up under this teaching and approach. A sinner does not 'decide' for Christ; the sinner 'flies' to Christ in utter helplessness and despair saying—Foul, I to the fountain fly, Wash me, Saviour, or I die. No man truly comes to Christ unless he flies to Him as his only refuge and hope, his only way of escape from the accusations of conscience and the condemnation of God's holy law. Nothing else is satisfactory. If a man says that having thought about the matter and having considered all sides he has on the whole decided for Christ, and if he has done so without any emotion or feeling, I cannot regard him as a man who has been regenerated. The convicted sinner no more 'decides' for Christ than the poor drowning man 'decides' to take hold of that rope that is thrown to him and suddenly provides him with the only means of escape. The term is entirely inappropriate."

Martin Beamer says

I gave this book five stars not because I agreed with everything in the book (because I certainly did not!) but because of what it stirred within me. It made me see and love the ministry of the Word in profoundly deep ways. It caused me to think and interact with what the preaching ministry is. It got me to pause and argue with the author's bold ideas. This book was used by the Spirit in great ways during the last couple of months. While reading it felt as though I was in a conversation good friend that sharpened my soul. A must-read for anyone in or seeking to enter into the pastoral ministry. I am confident I will come back to this book again and again.

Ryan Richetto says

This goes on my re-read list.
