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AYXCFM - TRISTIN KOBE

The Waiting Father is a collection of sermons by Helmut Thielicke, the great German preacher and theologian, which offer deep insights into the spiritual message of Jesus's fifteen major parables. They were originally preached in Michaelskirche, Hamburg, in the mid-1950s. Thielicke approaches the parables in novel ways. In treating the prodigal son, for instance, he concentrates more on the loving father than the rebellious son, emphasizing the centrality of forgiveness. Similarly, when discussing the pharisee and the publican he shows that the publican is guilty of spiritual pride and arrogance, drawing attention to the dangers for the faithful. Both among expositions of the parables and among books for preachers, The Waiting Father stands in a class of its own. Great scholars are usually poor preachers, and great preachers are rarely good scholars, but Thielicke manages to combine distinguished scholarship with fine preaching.

About a third of all the teachings of Jesus was in the form of parables. Some of these stories are well-known, such as the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. The challenge for Christians today is to know how to interpret the stories of Jesus. What was their intention and how should we apply them in our daily lives? This book briefly explains how Christians have interpreted the parables in the past and draws some useful pointers on how to read and apply the parables. The book then proceeds to examine 19 parables, showing how they can be interpreted and applied. In the process, many new perspectives and insights are presented. The Stories of Jesus is very useful for personal Bible study and for teaching and preaching.

Using the findings of historical Jesus studies, William Brosend asks, what is the rhetoric that characterized the preaching of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels, and how may today's preaching

benefit from it? This book for preachers and students of preaching helps the reader see four distinct aspects of the rhetoric of Jesus: dialogical (preaching in response to challenges and questions); proclamatory (making bold and authoritative statements); occasionally self-referential (though less so than in the Fourth Gospel); and persistently figurative (illustrating his message through metaphor). Brosend spends one chapter on each of these methods, closing each chapter with a sermon that models that approach and his analysis of it. Sample sermons are by well-known preachers including Fred Craddock, Michael Curry, Tom Long, and Barbara Brown Taylor. Brosend concludes with the implications for modern preaching and a sermon of his own.

Bigger, stronger, better! Russell Anderson has taken the most original and successful lectionary resource in history and improved on it. He has kept all of the traditional features that have made it a classic, such as: overviews of each liturgical season, commentaries compatible with the Revised Common and Roman Catholic lectionaries (plus Lutheran and Episcopal lections for those gradually converting to the Revised Common Lectionary), an introduction to the featured Gospel narrator (Matthew, in Cycle A), theological reflections for exploring the relationships between the texts, and wide margins for note-taking. Instead of stopping there, though, he has added: a 7" x 10" one-size-fits-all format, a suggested sermon title for each week, a Sermon Angle that briefly explicates the theological theme for the day (sometimes providing two or three of them), and illustrative stories in each chapter. Contained are crisp, tightly written lectionary helps that zero in on the critical themes of the texts, augmented with illustrative materials. The Prayer of the Day suggestions summarize and apply the themes in helpful language. The Reverend Dr. Dennis Anderson President, Trinity Lutheran Seminary Pastor Anderson's ability to relate eternal truths in the language of our 20th century society

will enable those informed by his writings to communicate the TRUTH in a way that will gain attention and guide the living of life. The Reverend Dr. Reuben T. Swanson Former Bishop, Nebraska Synod, Lutheran Church in America Former Secretary, Evangelical Church in America Russell F. Anderson is pastor at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. He received his master of divinity degree from The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and his doctor of ministry degree from McCormick Theological School in Chicago. He has published his own worship and homiletical resources under the banner "Worship Windows." He is married and the father of two grown daughters.

Instead of being a dour task on the checklist, what if the process of homily prep renewed you? Instead of feeling insecure about your message, what if your skills made you confident to preach a consistently clear message of Good News, authentic to you, relevant to your listeners, holding their attention and inviting transformation? Backstory Preaching: Integrating Life, Spirituality, and Craft shows you how. By integrating your life and spirituality with the practical skills necessary for effective preaching, you can move beyond the boredom, stress, or insecurity of preaching so it is no longer you who preach but Christ who preaches in you. By connecting with God in the midst of your sermon prep, the Gospel will be spread deeper and further. God's joy—and yours—will be made complete.

Preaching from Inside the Story is a book that seeks to carve out an understanding of narrative preaching in an age where there is little agreement about its nature and practice. Capitalizing on the works of Craddock and Lowry, it seeks to find an expanded palette upon which the preacher may engage the larger canvas of narrative preaching. This book will engage the mind by introducing neuroscientific understandings of creativity; build upon the foundations of the philosophy of stories by engaging Aristotle's

foundational understanding of narrative; and renew the Lowry Loop by expanding this seminal work and how it should be understood in our current culture. *Preaching from Inside the Story* breaks new ground by encouraging preachers to move inside stories and tell them from the inside out providing a positive effect, thereby affording non-narrative preachers to connect with storytelling principles. Ultimately, it is filled with examples of how to do narrative in a very practical way. However, in showing these practical examples, the reader is involved in a deep analysis of those narrative sermons and how they fit into an overall narrative understanding of preaching. In the final analysis, it invites the reader to take a fresh journey into narrative preaching.

This thorough revision of this classic text is even clearer and more helpful than the first edition. Long has updated the language, expanded the key chapter on biblical exegesis, and has included more examples of sermon forms, illustrations, and conclusions.

Preaching the Manifold Grace of God is a two-volume work describing theologies of preaching from the historical and contemporary periods. Volume 1 focuses on historical theological families: Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, Anglican/Episcopal, Wesleyan, Baptist, African American, Stone-Campbell, Friends, and Pentecostal. Volume 2 focuses on families that are evangelical, liberal, neo-orthodox, postliberal, existential, radical orthodox, deconstructionist, Black liberation, womanist, Latinx liberation, Mujerista, Asian American, Asian American feminist, LGBTQAI, Indigenous, postcolonial, and process. In each case, the author describes the circumstances in which the theological family emerged, describes the purposes and characteristics of preaching from that perspective, and assesses the strengths and limitations of the approach.

Experts from various fields offer concise definition, analysis, and discussion of nearly one hundred preaching topics. Subjects discussed include decision-making, abortion, incarnation, poverty, education, the Ten Commandments, jealousy, wealth, stewardship, and violence and war.

The renowned biblical scholar, author of *The Misunderstood Jew*, and general editor for *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers. Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from

everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives. In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

Stories are a powerful tool in the hands of a preacher. Used poorly, they can become the central focus of a sermon, usurping the rightful place of God's word as teacher and guide. Used well, they support the cause of truth, bringing the word of God to life with fresh clarity, relevance and power. This concise book serves as an excellent introduction to the role of storytelling in expository preaching. Ed Moll, a seasoned preacher and preaching trainer, offers readers a comprehensive guide to the types of stories that can support biblical teaching, from simple images and metaphors to full-fledged narratives, illustrating how each type can best aid the preacher in teaching the word of God. An excellent resource for both experienced preachers seeking to grow their skill and new preachers just starting out on their journey, this book provides practical exercises to put learning into practice and includes reading lists for those wanting to dive deeper into the topics raised.

The proclamation of the gospel is the responsibility of the baptized rather than the privilege of the ordained. Preaching is not a solo endeavor. It is a communal practice, a ministry of the whole congregation that is most faithful when the process is shared. In *The Peoples' Sermon*, Shauna K. Hannan argues that it is no longer faithful for a preacher to craft a sermon in isolation, step into "the pulpit" (literally or metaphorically) on Sunday morning, offer a one-sided monologue, and on Monday start all over, alone, with the process of researching and writing in preparation for the

following Sunday. Hannan's goal is to create vital worshipping communities where all know and live out their roles in the preaching ministry of the congregation, where both clergy and laity are empowered and equipped in their roles before, during, and after the sermon. She encourages readers to reflect on what preaching is and why the church engages in this practice, and to explore various roles in the preaching ministry of the congregation. She guides readers and their communities through a process that equips hearers to fulfill their active roles in the preaching ministry of the congregation. *The Peoples' Sermon* dares to suggest that preaching is most faithful when it is collaborative. Pastors do not own the pulpit; they steward it.

These are thirty-six sermons hammered out on the hard anvil of life lived with a local community of faith. Sometimes a preaching minister is overwhelmed with the inspiration of having something to say. Sometimes a preaching minister is overwhelmed by the responsibility of having to say something. These sermons fall into the category of the later. They were forged from the constant experience of having to answer the bell to preach each Lord's Day regardless of circumstance. They were fashioned from the background of 49 years in the pastorate and six years with this particular congregation, one that presents to the proclaimer the pressure of knowing good preaching whether they hear it from me or not. There is no consistent style or form to these sermons. Each sermon draws its substance and form from the experience of its respective text, as did the worship services in which they were proclaimed. The nature of these sermons is more inductive than deductive as were, of course, the parables from which they came. A conscientious effort was made to prepare and present these sermons in a way as to preserve the oral nature of preaching as well as the nature of the parable itself. The congregation at worship was invited to "hear" the scriptural texts and the sermons were delivered without a manuscript. These manuscripts were taken off of a vocal tape and edited. One quickly will note that there often are several different sermons preached on the same parable. Hopefully, this will preserve the integrity of the arena of interpretation as well as applying its truth to different situations at different times. I want to thank my dear friend, David Tullock, for his gracious invitation to submit these messages for publication. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Tullock for the invitation to write about the parables of Jesus. Jesus was no closet recluse or ivory tower

philosopher. His unforgettable stories stuck in the minds of his listeners because he lived with and among them. They reflect his genius for understanding the reality and complexity of everyday life. They teach us about a life lived to its fullest, a life like no other, the very life of Jesus himself, which he wants to share with us, even today. Thus the title, *Stories that Live*. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the family of faith at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, the best church of which I know. To be called to this wonderful congregation at age 62 was a grace gift of God, one of which I could never be worthy. In many ways, God saved the best for last. I also want to express my sincere thankfulness to the staff and worship team at First Cumberland: Bruce Clark, Jenni Faires, Charles Mitchell, Gerald Peel, Sam and Sarah Quattrochi and Danny Williams. Their insight, creativity and partnership in ministry have made this a better book and me a better minister. Heartfelt thanks goes to Tammi Long and Janice Guider who have poured countless hours to the task of preparing this manuscript as well as giving wise counsel and unlimited patience. It would not have happened without them. Especially, I want to thank my loving wife and partner, for 49 years, Sharlon, who 17 years ago urged me to write my first book and 6 books later still is my strength and encourager. In this book, she and I both want to acknowledge the companionship of a little one who will never read it, Saban Zoe. We also want to dedicate this book to four wonderful expression of serendipitous joy, our grandchildren, Brandon, Katelyn, Hadley and Alyssa. Without becoming overly sentimental, I want to express my gratitude to my Lord Jesus, whose stories these were initially, whose love and sacrifice changed my life and whose life still lives in me. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade, was once asked to describe his personal relationship to his Lord, Jesus. He stopped, became very still, sat and simply cried. I think I know a little of that which he felt.

In this engaging treatment of the Gospel of Mark, Dawn Ottoni Wilhelm combines biblical scholarship with a close reading of the Gospel text to meet the needs of preachers today. Swift and purposeful, the Gospel of Mark proclaims God's reign and urges the participation of all God's people in the witness of the good news that God has transformed human reality through Jesus Christ. This insightful commentary helps that message come alive while providing pertinent suggestions about how preachers can proclaim this message to today's churchgoers.

Every age needs its comfortable assumptions challenged by Scripture's unsettling call to live Christ's way -- hence the need for a fresh examination of the famed sermon of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 5-7.

In *The Stories Jesus Told*, teacher Kay Gabrysch presents study questions to equip and encourage you to align your mind and heart with the kingdom ethics Jesus taught in his parables. Appropriate for individual use or small groups, this 12-week study explores how Christians are to think Biblically about how the Kingdom of God challenges our present-day thinking. The questions lead to a conversation with Jesus in which the Lord himself reveals both the privileges and responsibilities of those who call themselves Kingdom citizens. This is a tremendous study for any adult, alone or with a group. Kay leads us through a careful interpretive process in order to learn deeply from Scripture. Each lesson ensures we observe the text carefully and reference other passages to aid in making theological conclusions. With well-researched notes on the original culture and language, Kay helps us check our biases and assumptions. Then, she provides ways for us to respond to what Jesus is teaching in our daily lives; we see ourselves in God's Story and in his Kingdom work. Dr. Tasha Chapman, Professor of Educational Ministries, Covenant Theological Seminary I am thrilled that Kay Gabrysch has published another study guide that helps lead women to a better understanding of God's Word. Her questions and teaching points help to make these parables come alive. We see how Jesus taught to reach hearts and transform them through the use of stories. Do you want your women to know Christ? Study the parables. When our women did this study, we found that it helped all of us, young and old, new believer and mature believer, understand the heart of Christ in new and fresh ways. And, more importantly, we are different women because of Christ's revelation of Himself through the parables. Kari Stainback, Director of Women's Ministries, Park Cities Presbyterian Church In this life stirring study, Kay allows us to grapple with Jesus' own words. An astute student of the original context, we learn with Kay to discern Jesus as the Bible presents him. Through Jesus' own stories our hearts are reshaped and formed as we experience and offer his wiser love in the real world. Dr. Zack Eswine, Scholar-in-Residence, Francis Schaeffer Institute

People love to hear the familiar Christmas stories during the season of Advent. No matter how creative one might be with different

approaches to Christmas preaching, for most it just doesn't seem the same without angels and shepherds and magi, without Mary and Joseph (and even wicked king Herod), and certainly without the child born in the manger! This leaves the preacher with four chapters of the scriptures, Matthew 12 and Luke 12, as the primary resources for the season. Preaching from these chapters for three years, much less thirty years, is a challenge. We are either left with preaching the same sermons, sometimes under different titles, or we need to think about Christmas preaching more creatively. *The Birth of Jesus the Messiah* combines thematic commentary on the birth stories of Matthew and Luke with preaching and teaching ideas. Biblical themes flowing through each birth narrative, set forth by the Gospel writers themselves, inspire fresh sermon series ideas for the Advent season. Over thirty sermon series ideas include *In the Shadow of Herod*, *Advent at Risk: Women in Jesus Genealogy*, *Covenants for Christmas*, *Lukes Symphony*, *Angels in Advent: Don't Be Afraid*. Engage with *The Birth of Jesus the Messiah* as a fresh starting point and annual resource for planning your Advent and Christmas preaching.

Sidney Greidanus's previous two preaching books *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text* and *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament* have received wide acclaim. *Preaching Christ from Genesis* offers more of Greidanus's solid, practical homiletical fare. Packed with unique features, *Preaching Christ from Genesis* uses the latest scholarly research to analyze twenty-three Genesis narratives; presents the rhetorical structures and other literary features of each narrative; discloses the message for Israel (theme) as well as the author's likely purpose (goal); explores various ways of preaching Christ from each narrative; offers sermon exposition and commentary in oral style; suggests relevant sermon forms, introductions, and applications Including helpful appendixes: "Ten Steps from Text to Sermon," "An Expository Sermon Model," and three of the author's own Genesis sermons this volume will be an invaluable resource for preachers and Bible teachers. - Publisher. Discover creative new trails for preaching beyond the lectionary. Elliott describes several different styles of contemporary preaching. A discussion about each style--such as narrative, evangelistic, African American and topical--is followed by two example sermons from such preachers as Tony Campolo, Barbara Brown Taylor, Sam Proctor, Fred Craddock and William Willimon.

'Bible Stories' contains favourite tales from the Old and New Testa-

ment, which have been simply retold to capture a child's interest. Engagingly illustrated, each title contains up to ten stories which introduce children to the main characters and events of the Bible. People love to share good stories -- but above all, they remember them Jesus knew this, so the master storyteller's most powerful sermons -- the parables -- were earthly stories that used everyday imagery to communicate heavenly meaning. In this volume, Sheffield helps you tell the story by expanding on 14 of Jesus' parables appearing in Cycle A and bringing them into a more modern setting. The parables of Jesus as familiar, predictable Sunday school stories? Not when Richard Sheffield is doing the preaching and teaching -- Ginny Thornburgh (Board of Trustees, Princeton Theological Seminary)

Paradoxes have become characteristic of the world we live in - poverty and privilege, empire and oppression, migration and enclaves seeking, war and peace, justice and injustice, reconciliation and revenge. During the 2016 Societas Homiletica annual conference held in South Africa, these paradoxes served as a rediscovery of the calling of preachers to deliver the promise that lies within life's contradictions. A divine promise brought forth by the grace of God and the gospel of Christ - embodied in and through us by the Spirit of Christ. This promise may take many forms and calls for discernment and often interrupts the status quos in surprising, shocking ways. It is a promise that interrupts, in order to comfort.

In this accessible treatment of the major themes of the Gospel of John, renowned New Testament scholar Lamar Williamson blends the best of biblical scholarship and a close reading of the Fourth Gospel to meet the practical needs of weekly preaching. A more reflective Gospel in which the risen Jesus speaks in signs and discourses, John does not simply tell stories, but allows us to experience the Word and to see Jesus offering living water to the aridity of the institutional church and bread to the hungry hearts of individual disciples. More than mere exposition, Preaching the Gospel of John includes at the end of each passage three to five possibilities for preaching the text--creative and pertinent suggestions that can help preachers apply the words of the Fourth Gospel to the lives of today's churchgoers. Proclaiming the living Word is a major theme of the Gospel of John, and this clear and insightful commentary captures that message in the preaching moment.

These Visual Bible EZ Lessons follow the format introduced in The

Power and the Presence: The Miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew (2002) and Unforgettable Lessons: The Sermon on the Mount (2002). In Stories Jesus Told: The Parables of Jesus from Matthew, four lessons offer a survey study of the seventeen parables of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. Hosted again by Pastor/Author David Jeremiah, these studies emphasize the primary themes that Jesus emphasized in his stories. Groups will gain fresh insight into Jesus' teaching as they discuss the following sets of parables: The Master Teacher: Four parables of Jesus that tell us about God and heaven. God's Indescribable Gift: Four stories parables of Jesus that tell us about God's gracious gifts to us. Finders Keepers: Four parables of Jesus that help us learn about God and his infinite love for us. Thy Kingdom Come: Five parables of Jesus that help us learn about the ultimate arrival of the kingdom of heaven?

Wake up your scripture study with this fresh and fun companion to the New Testament! The characteristically witty Marilyn Faulkner discusses New Testament stories like you've never heard them before. Use the parable of the sower to evaluate your use of social media, get directions as you scale the Sermon on the Mount, and learn how grace helps you be born again (and again and again).

The postliberal, cultural-linguistic theology of the "Vale School" has been one of the most important theological developments in the United States during the latter Twentieth century. In this unique book, which combines theological analysis and homiletical reflection, Charles Campbell examines postliberal theology as it is embodied in the work of Hans Frei and develops the implications of this theological position for the theory and practice of preaching. Arguing that the trouble with homiletics today is fundamentally theological, Campbell offers Frei's theological position as a means for enriching the Christian pulpit and renewing the church. Emphasizing the historical distance between the New Testament and our contemporary culture, The Sermon on the Mount offers helpful contextual insights for those seeking to discern how to live out the Bible in today's world. This sermon is the moral portrait of Jesus' own people--yet the contrast between his vision and our lives is so stark that many theologians have tried to soften the demands it makes on us until it's been skewed beyond recognition in the minds of many Christians. The goal of this special volume of The Story of God Bible Commentary series is to investigate the

Sermon on the Mount in light of the way Jesus meant it to be heard, requiring us to ask difficult questions about ethics, discipleship, and salvation. The first commentary series to do so, SGBC offers a clear and compelling exposition of biblical texts, guiding everyday readers in how to creatively and faithfully live out the Bible in their own contexts. Its story-centric approach is ideal for pastors, students, Sunday school teachers, and laypeople alike. Each volume employs three main, easy-to-use sections designed to help readers live out God's story: LISTEN to the Story: Includes complete NIV text with references to other texts at work in each passage, encouraging the reader to hear it within the Bible's grand story. EXPLAIN the Story: Explores and illuminates each text as embedded in its canonical and historical setting. LIVE the Story: Reflects on how each text can be lived today and includes contemporary stories and illustrations to aid preachers, teachers, and students. Edited by Scot McKnight and Tremper Longman III, and written by a number of top-notch theologians, The Story of God Bible Commentary series will bring relevant, balanced, and clear-minded theological insight to any biblical education or ministry.

Linguist Anna Wierzbicka casts new light on the words of Jesus by taking her theory of universal human concepts and bringing it to bear on Jesus' parables and the Sermon on the Mount. Her approach results in strikingly novel interpretations.

Perfect for a preaching series on the parables Jesus told, this handy book can also be used by Sunday school teachers and speakers.

The stories of Jesus' miracles are challenging to modern sensibilities -- with today's scientific and technological knowledge, we have become somewhat jaded, finding it difficult to be really amazed by anything we encounter. And the miracle stories are so familiar that we rarely mustering any sense of wonder about them, especially if we look for logical explanations. But Jeff Wedge maintains that in order to understand the miracles of the Bible, we must recapture this sense of wonder, for underlying them is the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world in which we live. Packed with valuable idea starters and rich material for sermon development, A Bucket Full Of Miracles provides a detailed exploration of the nine miracle stories in Cycle A. Each chapter includes the biblical text along with an examination of the words, the people, and the action of the lesson, as well as several illustrations

and possible preaching approaches. But this book is much more than just a sermon preparation resource -- it's also stimulating reading for anyone who wants greater insight into these marvelous stories of God's power at work.

The stories of Jesus' miracles can be challenging to modern sensibilities, conditioned as we are to believe that there must be a logical explanation for water being turned into wine or nets suddenly overflowing with fish. But John Wurster suggests that for contemporary preachers and their listeners, the most important question raised by these remarkable accounts is not "How did they happen?" but rather "What do they mean?" "Ordinary Words, Extraordinary Deeds" helps answer that question by exploring the theological significance of the nine miracle stories appearing in Cycle C of the Revised Common Lectionary. Each chapter includes the biblical text along with interpretive reflections that set the passage in its literary context and connect it to major themes of the gospel writer. There's also a section investigating a variety of preaching possibilities and offering brief thoughts about what these texts tell us about the sacraments, since (like the miracles) the sacraments make grace evident in ways we can touch and feel. Specifically geared for the busy pastor with limited time, this is an excellent volume packed with valuable idea starters and rich material for sermon development. But it's also stimulating reading for anyone who wants greater insight into these marvelous stories of God's power at work. Chapter titles include: - The Star (Matthew 2:1-12) - Wedding At Cana (John 2:1-11) - Jesus Transfigured (Luke 9:28-36) - The Lepers (Luke 17:11-19) ... and five more!

John W. Wurster is a graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas (B.A. summa cum laude), Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (D.Min). Currently the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Findlay, Ohio, Wurster has previously served congregations in Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He is the author of "What If What They Say Is True?" (CSS), a collection of sermons on prophetic texts.

In this compelling and hard-hitting book, respected preacher and

teacher Thomas Long identifies and responds to what he sees as the most substantive theological forces and challenges facing preaching today. The issues, he says, are fourfold: the decline in the quality of narrative preaching and the need for its reinvigoration; the tendency of preachers to ignore God's action and presence in our midst; the return of the church's old nemesis, gnosticism--albeit in a milder form--evidenced in today's new "spirituality"; and the absence of eschatology in the pulpit. Long once again has his finger on the pulse of American preaching, demonstrated by his creative responses to these challenges. Whether he is calling for theologically smarter and more ethically discerning preaching, providing a method of interpretation that will allow pastors to recover the emphasis on God in our midst, or encouraging a kind of "interfaith dialogue" with gnosticism, he demonstrates why he has long been considered one of the most thoughtful and intelligent preachers in America today.

This thorough and detailed revision of *The Witness of Preaching* is even clearer and more helpful than the first edition. Long has updated the language, expanded the key chapter on biblical exegesis, and included more examples of sermon forms, illustrations, and conclusions. He continues to critically engage the best thinkers in the field of homiletics, bringing into the conversation both important new voices and the latest works of those who appeared in the first edition. In addition, he addresses some of the new forces at work, such as the use of video clips and PowerPoint presentations in sermons.

Peter Stevenson provides an introduction to the practice of preaching. It is designed for people from various church traditions, in the early stages of ministerial formation. Preaching is a complex and challenging business requiring a demanding mixture of skills. People listening to a sermon have the right to expect that a person who stands up to preach, can interpret the Bible competently, has a grasp of core Christian beliefs, and believes what they preach. They also expect someone who has the neces-

sary range of communication skills to put the message across in an accessible way. Such a range of expectations presents daunting challenges to the most experienced preacher. Including practical exercises which could be used by individuals or by groups, this book is suitable for introductory courses in preaching or for modules which consider preaching within an overall focus upon leading public worship.

This book approaches preaching as a theological practice and a spiritual discipline in a way that is engaging, straightforward, and highly usable for busy preachers. Bringing to bear almost three decades of practical experience in the pulpit and the classroom, Annette Brownlee explores six questions to help preachers listen to Scripture, move from text to interpretation for weekly sermon preparation, and understand the theological significance of the sermon. Each chapter explains one of the Six Questions of Sermon Preparation, provides numerous examples and illustrations, and contains theological reflections. The final chapter includes sample sermons, which put the Six Question method into practice.

Forty years ago the one thing that could be said about sermons was they were biblical. Unfortunately, they were sometimes tedious too. Narrative preaching aimed to fix that, advocating for a dynamic experience of the text over against a static lecture. Preaching could be like the parables of Jesus, intriguing and compelling. *The Story of Narrative Preaching* is the story of seven students who are enrolled in Professor Freeman's preaching course. Once a new trend, narrative preaching is now older than most of them. As Professor Freeman notes, two things went wrong with narrative styles: over time the church became biblically and theologically illiterate, and the promised stress on experience didn't always measure up to the weight of the gospel. Readers are invited to sit in on the class, to reflect on the expositional nature of preaching and to experience the stories of some modern storytellers--Flannery O'Connor, Alice Walker, and others--to see what they might teach us about narratives of depth. In the end we discover what may be the most important word in preaching.