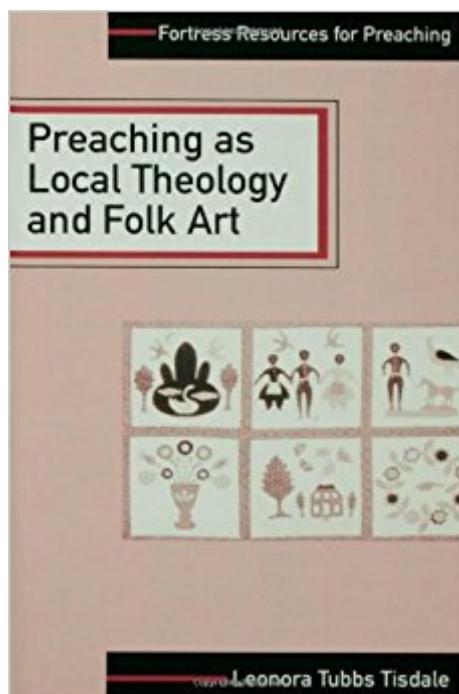


The book was found

Preaching As Local Theology And Folk Art (Fortress Resources For Preaching)



Synopsis

Illustrated throughout by cases of the author and others, this book tells how to analyze a congregation so that the preacher's sermon really fits his audience. The book then gives practical help for preparing and delivering sermons that are meaningful and appropriate. Tisdale draws from contextual theology and congregational studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Nora is a wonderful, caring individual. It comes across in her works.

good read.

Enjoyed this book.

great resource

Tisdale explores an interesting activity for preachers that is what she calls exegeting the congregation. The author highlights the significant need for preachers to understand the culture, demographics, theological background and expectations of the congregation to whom they minister. Tisdale provides many different approaches for how to gain insights about the congregation that will

enhance the positive impact of the preaching. I think there is a plethora of elements for readers to consider and evaluate for their own ministry of preaching. Tisdale considers preachers to be local theologians. She writes, "Congregational preachers are also local theologians, called to craft theology that is shaped for very particular communities of faith...preaching as local theology insists that we begin with a searching examination of our own culture." Exegeting the culture, according to Tisdale, complements Biblical exegesis and helps the pastor - parish relationship. The impact of cultural difference is severe in some cases and probably exaggerated in others. Where Tisdale seems deficient is in two areas in my opinion. One is that I think she neglects the responsibility of Christians congregations to act like Christians rather than often being snide, impatient judges of preachers. I think she could have written about how congregations are not sitting as judge and jury of preachers but as recipients of the gospel and word of Christ. Too often, authors seem to imply that finger pointing is allowed if pastors don't measure up to arbitrary expectations like being culturally sensitive and acclimated and amenable to all of the congregations' expectations. The second area that I think Tisdale neglects is when the preacher is called to prophetically confront the culture of the congregation that is opposition to what God is doing. For example, a parish may be steeped in patriotism and expect the pastor to preach Americanism along with the gospel. This would include inserting all American holidays into the liturgical calendar. The preacher may be aware of this and consider it something to be confronted rather than adopted and adhered to. Mixing political action and agendas with the mission of God may be another expectation of a parish culture. Tisdale doesn't write about confronting such cultural DNA. I think that would have been helpful. Sometimes the congregation is wrong and the preacher is called to confront them and the culture. I did not find the concluding chapter of the book on preaching as folk art very helpful. That seems less substantial or clear than previous topics of the book. Overall this is an interesting book that is worthwhile for preachers to consider.

did not find this book helpful. Most preachers know to create sermons with their hearers in mind.

A one-of-a-kind, this book is helpful to those doing research into the values of a particular congregation's culture in order to discern how to best preach to a particular people. Tisdale helps pastors do their own ethnographic cultural analysis by looking at such intangibles as symbols and stories in order to determine what is valued and has meaning for folks and in order to determine what kind of sermon will best preach the gospel to various types of congregations. Where the book falls short is in helping pastors discern how to preach against a particular congregation's values

when they are at odds with the gospel the pastor was ordained to preach, which makes this a more pastoral book, perhaps to the detriment of the prophetic calling pastors also have.

Tisdale's book helps pastors to be better contextual preachers. She guides them in exegeting their congregations and in preaching sermons vis-a-vis that exegesis. Many of us preachers know that we are supposed to preach contextually, but we learn this lesson in seminary, where the context is very different from that of our congregations. Tisdale helps us to pay more attention to our parishioners and preach to THEM. Her book contains an abundance of useful lists and suggestions. It is easy but enlightening reading.

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