

The Point of Contact
First Step in the Preparation of Biblical Sermons
Estimated time: 30 -- 45 minutes

Begin with prayer. Ask God to make you sensible to the Word and to speak through your sermon to the congregation. Keep a devotional atmosphere throughout the exercise.

Read the text several times. Work primarily with the translation that has become part of your own being. Compare it with other translations for the purpose of comparing and contrasting emphasis, movement, and structure. Some recommended translations are: NRSV, RSV, JB, NIV, TEV and NEB. Do not use secondary sources for this exercise.

Read the text once more, aloud and with feeling. Only then, proceed to answer the following questions.

1. What are the questions that the text sparks?

2. What feelings surface as you read the text?

3. What memories does the text cause you to recall?

4. Imagine that you are immersed in the world proposed by the text:

a. What do you see? _____

b. What do you hear? _____

c. What do you smell? _____

d. What do you touch? _____

e. What do you taste? _____

f. What does it feel to be in that world? _____

5. Has your perception of the text changed? How?

6. What is this text about? List the topics and ideas suggested by the text.
