



2023-24 Text for Proclamation and Preaching: Matthew 18:21-35

- **Exegesis of the Sermon Text**
 - Submit clearly identified responses to all questions in your submission. The use of proper grammar is expected. See the Writing Quality and Style Reference Guideline included in the supplemental packet.

- **The Text:**
 - Read the text in several (no less than three) translations. Note the differences in each translation.
 - How does this text fit into the larger context of the book?
 - What is the text about?
 - What happens before the text and after? Does what happens before and after the text help inform the text you are preaching?
 - What key terms need to be defined or clarified in the text? Define these terms using Hebrew, Latin, or Greek word-study references. Note: Hebrew terms are usually used in Old Testament readings, and Greek is usually used in New Testament readings.
 - Paraphrase the text in your own words. (Do not rewrite the text sentence-by-sentence; write as if you are telling it to someone.)
 - What is the main thought of the text?
 - What are the conflicts in the text? (What is said or happens that is out of the ordinary? What is said or happens that causes conflict with the characters or the people it is written to?)
 - Consider the text as an answer or insight to someone's important question. What would that question be?
 - What is the text doing? Is it commanding? Singing? Narrating? Explaining? Expound on your response.

- **The Background:**
 - What is the historical background of the text you are preaching?
 - Who were the people the writer was addressing?
 - What was the particular situation the writer was addressing?
 - What message was the writer conveying to these people?
 - What is the cultural background of the text? How does this inform/impact the text you are preaching?
 - What is the theological background of the book? How does this inform/impact the text you are preaching?

- **The Summary:**
 - What is the central emphasis in the text?

- **The Sermon:**
 - Describe the congregation to whom the sermon was preached. (Who are they in terms of age? Male/female? What historical or cultural background may influence how they hear the sermon?)
 - Write a one-sentence summary that expresses the message you want to convey in your sermon.
 - Provide an outline of the sermon as you plan to preach it.
 - Write your sermon in manuscript form.
 - The sermon delivery time should be 15-20 minutes. Do not submit a funeral eulogy, a communion meditation, or a short homily for a special day.
 - The sermon should be preached and recorded during a "regular" Sunday worship service or a typical ministry setting and not preached in an empty sanctuary or room.
 - Your manuscript/transcript should be typewritten, double-spaced, and all pages numbered.
 - Write a full manuscript/transcript. If you preach using notes or an outline or vary significantly from the manuscript, submit what you use in the pulpit.
 - Illustrations should be real church, broader community, national, and world situations. We are expecting to hear contextual issues that align with the text. Simply put, somebody somewhere is going through something, and we want to hear how this text speaks to them. Talk about the issue(s). Do not play it safe!
 - All sources used in the sermon manuscript must be documented in the manuscript.
 - List a bibliography of all sources you used in preparation.

- **The Sermon Follow-Up:**
 - What needs did your sermon seeks to meet?
 - Why do you feel the sermon did or did not meet those needs?

- **INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED IN SUBMITTING YOUR SERMON**
 - Contact information is on all pages and disks submitted. Include your name, address, the best phone number to reach you, and umcsc.org email address in the upper right-hand corner of all pages submitted or in a conspicuous place on the disk.
 - Submit all documents (sermon outline, sermon manuscript, exegesis, annotated bibliography, sermon summary statement, etc.) as ONE document via email. The audio can be sent in the same email as the above document or, if it is a disk copy, by mail.

- **Writing Your Sermon Outline**
 - The Sermon outline is the road map you follow when you expand and explain your sermon's topic/title and main preaching points. Sermon outlines should be a cohesive sequence that will flow naturally as you present your sermon.
 - You do not have to preach with points. They are only additives to help your sermon flow smoothly. They are matters of preaching preference.
 - Ensure your sermon outline flows from one section to the next and provides a quick overview of your manuscript.

Sermon Outline Example

(Tailor this example to fit your preaching style and sermon)

I. Passage of Scripture

II. Sermon Title

III. Introduction (The Attention Draw)

IV. Context of the text

- A. Sub Point
- B. Sub Point
- C. Sub Point

V. Life Issues (Real Church, Community, World, and Personal Matters)

- A. Sub Point
- B. Sub Point
- C. Sub Point
- D. Illustration

VI. Hope in the text (Relevance to V)

- A. Sub Point
- B. Sub Point
- C. Sub Point
- D. Illustration

VII. Applications and Closing (How to practically apply this text to a transformed life)

- A. Sub Point
- B. Sub Point
- C, Sub Point
- D. Illustration – Make The Appeal
- E. Close

If you have any questions, please contact:

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