

Ideas for Getting More Out of the Sermons

There are adjustments I can make to be a better preacher. But I think nothing I do is going to help you unless you make some adjustments too. Let me reiterate the application steps we discussed in the sermon on 02.08.15. Maybe you need to focus on one or more of these.

1. Try to understand the Bible knowledge and care about it as the first step to applying it. Try to understand and appreciate why, not just what. Let the teaching change the way you think!
2. If you get bored, stay tuned in to what I am saying, to see if something more interesting comes up and remember that all time spent in God's Word is valuable, even if it covers things you know well.
3. If you get confused, don't worry about it; the teaching is designed to stretch and challenge all different types of people. Write your questions down to ask someone later, and meantime stay attentive so you get something else from the passage.
4. Start applying what you already know about the basics: you need to have daily time in Bible study and reflection, daily intentional times of prayer, at the least; there are other basics, but start here, and begin to find your own ways of applying to your life what you learn from God.
5. In your daily quiet times, take time to reflect on scripture, to prayerfully think about what it says and what you should do with it, how you should change the way you think or the way you live.
6. I suggest you make the sermon based devotions part of your weekly study, so you can reflect daily on what God is teaching us each week, including individualized application ideas.
7. Beyond reflecting, you can talk with friends and family about the ideas, to solidify them in your mind; ask questions, try to explain the concepts, and discuss application thoughts.
8. When I give a general application idea or specific application examples, use those to think up a bunch of your own. You don't necessarily need to do everything you think up, but brainstorm as many application ideas as you can, maybe together with friends or family, and then select the ones God is leading you to try. Share these with me; maybe more of us should do them.
9. Don't be shy about sharing with me your feedback on what is working and what is not. The last two weeks, one lady told me why the sermon did work for her, and another told me why it did not. I really value that input and will continue trying to become a better teacher for you.