**Preaching and Leadership**

**Breakout Session Notes: Monday, March 6**

By: Mark A. Howell

3 Key Verses

Nehemiah 8:12

Luke 24:32

1 Thessalonians 2:13

5 Common Denominators

* A Problem is Identified
* The Scripture is Expounded
* Application is Made
* A Response is Called For
* Lives Are Changed

1 Fundamental Truth

In each of these passages, the link between the problem (lack of direction) and the ultimate result (transformed lives) is the pointed and persuasive exposition and application of Scripture.

12 Key Principles

* A commitment to text-driven ministry and text-driven leadership is always deliberate.
* Your aim must be to lead your people to view every aspect of their lives through biblical lenses.
* If you cannot succinctly articulate the main idea of your sermons then you can be sure that your people will not be able to either. A lack of clarity in the pulpit will inevitably lead to confusion in the pews.
* Your task is not to make the Bible relevant—your task is to show your people how relevant the Bible already is. This principle has significant implications for “casting the vision” of your church.
* If you do not like the “sight of blood” then stay out of the ministry—it is not for the faint of heart.
* If you tell your people “God told me” then you better be certain that God told you. Never take a risk (no matter how biblical it might appear) without God’s permission.
* The success of your ministry will not be measured by the campaigns you lead, the tasks you complete, the buildings you build, or the seats you fill—your success will ultimately be measured by your impact upon eternity.
* The focus of your pastoral leadership must not be about advancing an agenda—it must be about preaching the Word.
* You must tell your people both what the text says and what the text means—specific application is one of the most overlooked aspects of expository preaching.
* Don’t argue with your people about “your” position—make them argue with the Bible.
* Repetition is your friend. If you think you’ve said something enough, then you need to say it 5 more times. One of your tasks it to repeatedly remind your people of what they already know.
* God’s agenda for His people will never include manipulation or intimidation. If He is behind it, it will succeed.