**Begin with a Bang and End with a Bang:**

**Introducing and Concluding the Expository Sermon**

**(a summation)**

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3 Key Verses

Nehemiah 8:12

Luke 24:32

1 Thessalonians 2:13

4 Common Denominators

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

5 Introduction Pitfalls

* Not being able to identify the main idea of the passage in a simple, yet profound sentence. If we cannot succinctly articulate the main idea of our sermons, then we can be sure that our people will not be able to either.
* Not beginning with the text first…or beginning with the text and never returning to it.
* Failing to get the attention of the congregation. First 10 seconds… “do I like you?” First minute… “will I listen to you?”
* Not knowing what you are going to say and how you are going to say it.
* Not preparing a smooth transition from the introduction to the body of the message.

5 Key Principles for Powerful Introductions

* Hey: Get their attention. "When you advertise fire-extinguishers, open with the fire."
* You: Show them why they should listen. You don’t make the Bible relevant…you show how relevant it already is.
* Look: Dive into the text.
* Do: Help them to see where the message is going.
* Your introduction should be so well-crafted, intentional, and interesting that if you decided to stop preaching, your congregation would beg you to keep going.

5 Conclusion Pitfalls

* Not knowing how and when you plan to end.
* Not seamlessly tying an invitation to respond to Christ with the conclusion of the sermon. This could be the most significant “5” minutes of a person’s life.
* Not bringing the plane in for a smooth, planned, and purposeful landing.
* Not delivering on what was promised.
* Not speaking to the heart. This is the time to speak to the individual…not to read from your manuscript.

5 Key Principles for a Powerful Conclusion

* Master the sermon conclusion so that you can speak directly to the congregation.
* Prepare your sermon with the conclusion in mind. Your biblical interpretation has led you to the main idea of the passage, and everything that you said in your sermon was for the purpose of expounding this idea. The conclusion then, should simply be a call to live out and obey the clear teaching of the main idea and its Christ-centered implications.
* Be personal in appeal and concrete in application.
* The proclamation of God’s truth is not solely for the expression of information, but calls

us to the urgency of transformation. Preaching implies the call for a decision and

preachers must call upon listeners to respond. If you are going to call people to action, you ought to give them some immediate way to respond.

* Always extend an invitation for people to respond to the “Christ-centered” focus of every biblical text. Tell them how to respond to the question, “What must I do to be saved” (Acts 16:30)? “I preached as never sure to preach again and as a dying man to dying men” (Richard Baxter).

“The power that is in the gospel does not lie in the eloquence of the preacher; otherwise men

would be the converters of souls. Nor does it lie in the preacher’s learning; otherwise it would

consist in the wisdom of men. We might preach until our tongues rotted, till we would exhaust

our lungs and die, but never a soul would be converted unless the Holy Spirit be with the Word

of God to give it the power to convert the soul.” (Charles Spurgeon)