**ClassNotes #6**

**The Criteria for the Sermon Evaluation**

People hear the same sermon differently and evaluate differently. However, there are at least some fundamentals for preachers to keep in mind when they prepare and preach a sermon. “The Criteria for the Sermon Evaluation” posted on Moodle includes seven criteria as guidelines for evaluating preaching. I hope these criteria help you when you prepare your sermons for this course and for other preaching events as well. I will also use these criteria as the standards for our evaluations of sermons preached in this course. I also encourage you to use these criteria for discussions on your two sermons with your sermon feedback group.

1. Theology. Does preaching help the congregation gain a meaningful theological insight for their spiritual journey? What makes a sermon meaningful to the congregation in ways that matter to them, to their sense of who they are and/or how they are to live?
2. The use of the text. Does the sermon use the biblical text faithfully and relevantly?
3. The relation to contemporary life. How does the sermon connect to the concrete situation of the congregation? Are the illustrations authentic and appropriate?
4. The clarity of focus and function of the sermon. Can you state in one sentence the focus and the function of the sermon? Are they clearly delivered in the sermon?
5. Form. Is the movement of the sermon progressive and easy to follow for the listeners? Does the form make the listeners meditate or reflect on their spiritual journey, not only intellectually but also emotionally and intuitively? That is to say, does the form help the listeners experience the living God holistically at the moment of preaching?
6. The use of language. Is the language truly oral/aural? In other words, when you hear the sermon, does it come to you as a personal conversation with the cadence and pulse of speech, and not that of an academic essay?
7. Delivery and presence. Is preaching presented as a speaking event? Are volume and articulation, congruence of tone and content, use of gestures and overall pulpit space, eye contact, etc. are appropriate?

If you have something else to add to the criteria for the sermon evaluation, please feel free to share it when we discuss them in class on Friday during the Iliff Gathering Days.