

## Lec 12

## Homiletics

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### Types of Sermons

There are many kinds of sermons. We can choose any one of them according to the occasion and share the sermon with people in a powerful way.

### Expository Sermons – 1

The word *Exposition* actually comes from the word *expose*. This means to uncover, to show, to open, and to remove the covering.

In this, the preacher tries to explain the passage or *text* verse by verse and word by word.

For expository sermons, the following things are kept in mind:

- Who is the author of this passage?
- To whom was this passage written?
- What is the date of writing?
- At the time of writing, which nations were present?
- What were their religions?
- What was their language?
- What was their culture, lifestyle, and profession?
- Who was ruling there?
- What kind of government was there?
- Who was the king?
- What was the political situation?
- What is its location?
- What is its historical background?
- What is its grammar?
- What is the context of this passage?

### What does the word “context” mean?

The word *context* comes from the Latin word *contextus*, which means “to tie together.”

In a passage, words, sentences, paragraphs, chapters, and books are like threads — each part becomes complete when it is joined with the others.

**Context means** to understand and explain the correct meaning of the written message, where every word is linked to the other.

Each word is connected with another word, and each sentence is connected with another sentence, and each paragraph is connected with another paragraph.

### Every text has context.

Reading a text without its context gives you an excuse or a reason to take any meaning you want from it.

### A text without a context is a phrase.

A very famous phrase is: **Pretext** – This is a text where you do not care about the context, and then you are free to give it any meaning.

**Let the text speak in its context.**

Words and actions without context have no meaning. You can give them any meaning you want. Let's understand this with an example:

Looking at these verses, some critics think that the Lord Jesus Christ came only for the Jews and that He also taught His disciples to serve only among the Jews. But this is not the correct meaning of these verses.

If the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ was only for the Jews, then He would never have given the Great Commission to His disciples to make disciples of all nations. And He would not have told them to go to Jerusalem, all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

You can understand this with the help of circles. There are four circles. In the first circle, the disciples are standing. That circle is Jerusalem. The next circle is Judea, which is the area outside Jerusalem. After that is Samaria. And after that is the end of the earth.

So when the Lord Jesus Christ said not to go outside Jerusalem, it does not mean that His ministry was only limited for the Jews. This is called reading and understanding any verse without its **context**.

Now let's try to understand this passage in its **context**.

These are the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom He sent for a limited and short mission.

The disciples who were chosen till now were not very mature in their minds. When a storm came on the Sea of Galilee, they became afraid. In the Garden of Gethsemane, they fell asleep. Their memory was weak — one time they forgot to take bread with them. They had little faith — once they could not cast out an evil spirit from a boy. Most of them were still full of pride, arrogance, and ego.

They were not yet ready to be sent to non-Jews or to faraway places for preaching. Because they were not prepared for it yet.

Even after the resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ told them (Acts 1:3–4):

After He suffered, He showed Himself to them with many proofs. For forty days He appeared to them and talked about the Kingdom of God. He met with them and told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard from Me.

This was the time when they had already spent three and a half years with the Lord Jesus Christ. But still, the Lord Jesus Christ did not allow them to go to non-Jews. Because He had already chosen a specific time to send them.

**(Acts 1:8)**

"But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

I believe these are very simple, easy, and very practical things.  
I don't think the Lord Jesus Christ's...

From this, no such idea comes that He (Jesus) was only limited to the Jews or that He wanted to keep His disciples only among the Jews.  
Not at all.

Until His disciples became strong spiritually, the Lord Jesus Christ could not send them to the non-Jews.

The disciples were sent two times:

- One time to **Israel**,
- And the second time they were told to go to **all nations**.

**Content without context is noise.**

To understand any text, it is very important to know its **context**.

**Immediate Context – قریبی سیاق**

This means to focus on the part that is closest to the reference. (Matthew 1:18–21)

Who is the writer?

To whom is he writing?

What is the purpose of writing?

What was said before?

What is said after?

**Larger Context – وسیع سیاق و سباق**

What is the subject of this book?

In what situation was it written?

What is its background?

Why do we need it?

Many scholars say:

**“Content is king”** — (Bill Gates)

**“Context is queen”**



## Literary Context – ادبی تناظر

**Words:** First, we focus on the words.

We pay attention to their **etymology** (word origin).

Use dictionaries to translate the words.

### Grammar:

- What time period is being talked about?
- Is it singular or plural?
- Is it active or passive voice?
- What kind of word is it? (Conjunction, verb, noun)
- Is it the subject or the object?
- Is it the beginning or the end?
- Is it written to one person or many people?
- Is the writing poetic or formal?

### Cultural Context

What was the culture of that time?

What were the people like?

What was their way of living?

### Historical Background

Who was ruling?

Who was under whose control?

King and people.

### Law of Double Reference

In this, we see where this passage is found in the Old Testament.

#### **If we don't do this, what will happen?**

We will not understand the real meaning.

We will be confused ourselves and will confuse others too.

If we do not understand the correct context, then we will explain it wrongly.

Today I want that with your help, we prepare a message.

The base of expository preaching is the Holy Bible.

Because the passage gives us guidance.

We do not take our own meanings from the text.

We bring the meaning of the passage to the people.  
This is the best way to share the Word.

Such sermons are not just *about* the Holy Bible — they *are* the Holy Bible.

The center of expository preaching is the Holy Bible.

They are **not springboards**.

**Springboard sermons** are the kind of sermons where people take **jumps** — they jump here and there and give a tour of the Bible.

Many people read one Bible verse, pick one part from it, and then connect it with different verses.

They think they are preaching the correct message.

But many times, the main passage gets **ignored**.

**Example:** Luke 9:10–11

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## Topical Sermons – 2

First, let us understand the difference between **Expository Sermons** and **Topical Sermons**.

In **Expository Sermons**, the message is preached from one specific passage.

But in **Topical Sermons**, we study different Bible verses related to one topic.

In Urdu, there are two books:

**Qamoos-ul-Kitab** and **Kaleed-ul-Kitab**.

In English, we can use a **Reference Bible**.

We can also use **Google** for help.

**Example:**

If you want to preach about *Love*, then find Bible verses related to love and prepare your message.

For example: John 3:16.

Let's now find verses and prepare a sermon practically.

In **Topical Sermons**, many people ignore the **context**.

This is not right.

Whatever topic we choose, and whatever verse we take, we must look carefully at its **context**, and then preach it.