

MAKING SERMONS LAST: DURING THE SERMON

The absolute best thing you can do during a sermon is **take notes!**
I still have notes from my pastor's sermons. 25 years after he died, his sermons are still ministering to my soul!

Here are some things to listen for and write down in the sermon:

A MAIN APPLICATION or PRIMARY TRUTH. (A Proposition, or Sermon Thesis)
In proper preaching, this should be the main truth of the passage.

MAIN POINTS THAT SUPPORT THE MAIN TRUTH

- Look for anywhere between 2-5 points. Based on the number of points, you can expect:
 - **2 points:** A contrast or tension between two ideas. (lost/saved; physical/spiritual, etc)
 - **3 points:** A developmental sermon. (The points are following the text to flesh out the main truth) (This is why so many of my sermons have 3 points! 😊)
 - **4 or more points:** This will be a summary of a passage, truth, or idea, typically not going very deep on each point.
- There may be “sub-points” under the Main points or not. These will usually simply fill out the main idea of the point.

SOME OTHER THINGS TO WRITE:

- **Information** you might have difficult time finding on your own (Background or historical info/info from original languages)
- **Quotes** that “jump out at you.”
- **Questions** that come to your mind. You can use the week to seek out answers.
- Along the same lines, **vocabulary** or points that are unclear to you. You will seek these out during the week.
- “**Word pictures**” that provide clarity for you.
- **Cross references** included by the pastor/teacher or perhaps supplied by your Bible.

MOST IMPORTANTLY!! WRITE ANY WAY THE SPIRIT IS ILLUMINATES THE WORD TO YOU!

- Write any other verses that come to mind while you listen! DO NOT IGNORE THESE! Go back and read them and study them in the week!
 - Quotes you've heard previously that come to your mind.
 - Other verses that you think of that relate to the message.
 - Songs that come to your mind that aid in worship.
 - Etc.
- **Epecially** - A specific way you can apply the passage this week that comes to mind.
(Be specific: Not "I'm going to love my wife more this week," but "This afternoon, I will _____ for/with her.")

Make the sermon a conversation between you and the Lord. Don't just be passive. Think! Write! Consider!
Question!