Crafting a Sermon – Focus on information from Jana Childers book: “Birthing the Sermon”

Notes by Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg 2022

**“Birthing the Sermon” Editor: Jana Childers** Twelve Women preachers who outline their process for crafting a sermon and then one of their sermons in included.

I just had 3 days of reading while I was away. This gave me the chance to read 3 ½ books that been part of my “must read” pile.

\*\*All of the preachers talked about the amount of reading that they do. They read literature, poetry, biology, history, business, sociological studies and research. The wide variety of reading and listening to podcasts can bring a wider scope to the sermon. You already read during your week. Books, newspapers, articles, cereal boxes, church bulletins, billboards, directions to set up a piece of furniture or to set up a new computer.

One thing that I have learned from the Festival of Homiletics is that it is important to read.

* Get stuck? Take a walk
* Preach from what you know: flat tires, recipes, sports, elders, children, animals, CNN, plants, past relationships.

Crunch Time for Sermon: Teresa Fry Brown – Saturday 9pm – Sunday 5a.m. Most productive between 2-5 a.m. on Sunday. Colleague who started sermon on Sat. Night – 2nd job

Others: Get it done on Thursday before day off on Friday.

Get it done on Friday with edits on Saturday.

Jana Childers: “It is possible to train the unconscious to kick in. I had a mentor who, week after week through all the years of his preaching ministry, kept a ten o’clock appointment with the Holy Spirit every Tuesday morning. This man told me that he had never been stood up. Every sermon had started in one of those appointments. He taught me that it is helpful to have a routine for creative tasks.” The routine was for him and not the Holy Spirit.

Distractive thoughts are normal part of the process.

God spoke to Jana in the middle of a week that she was preaching many times at a revival. She prayed to God, begged God to speak through her. God replied in a very clear voice, *“Quit trying to storm the throne. It is faithfulness that I desire.”*

Each of the 12 have a different process.

* Barbara Lundblad – pg. 119 “Birthing a Sermon” Craft in the midst of distractions.
* Barbara Brown Taylor locks herself up in her house for a 6-hour period with her phone off. She sits in a chair right by her bookshelf on one side and her reading stand on the other. She has a cup of hot tea. Her Jack Russell terrier is on her lap. She crafts her sermon before sending it off to a reader. Bible Study folks. Collaborators are: The New York Times, NPR, The Christian Century, Tricycle (Buddhist journal)

ODR (Dr.Fred Craddock) - **Orientation**, what we know or think we know about the text

**Disorientation** – whatever shifts my perspective on the text that I am most interested in. What upsets the balance?

**Reorientation** – Once the passage has been tripped off balance, how does it settle down?

* Mary Graves - California, Presbyterian. Begins with the scripture and not a topic. Does “lectio divina” to engage in the text word for word looking for repetitions, contrast and special emphasis. Reads 4-6 commentaries.