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PR 610 Servant as Proclaimer

J. Ellsworth Kalas

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PR610 Servant as Proclaimer

Professor: J. Ellsworth Kalas
ellsworth_kalas@asburyseminary.edu
Office Phone: (859) 858-2247
SPO: 793

Office: Beeson 217
Office Hours:
Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m.
Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Fall 2001

PR610 A: TR 9:30-10:45
PR610 C: TR 2:30-3:45

PR610 is a prerequisite to other preaching courses. It is intended to be an integrative approach to the theory and practice of preaching. The emphasis and goal: effective biblical preaching.

The course, as taught in these sessions, includes lectures, discussion, and laboratory. The laboratory experience occurs when you and your colleagues preach. The critiquing of these sermons is as much a part of the learning experience as are the lectures, and you should expect to take notes during these experiences – not only when you yourself have preached, but also as you learn from comments made to your colleagues following their sermons.

TEXTS: Demaray, Introduction to Homiletics
 Kalas, Old Testament Stories from the Back Side
 Craddock, Preaching

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Due September 27: A paper of 5 or 6 pages, double space, analyzing six representative preachers, chosen not on the basis of their theology, but for their place in the recent history of preaching:
 - Washington Gladden (19th century exemplar of the social gospel)
 - Harry Emerson Fosdick (probably the greatest 20th century pulpiteer, with influence far beyond the church)
 - Ralph W. Sockman (one of the most popular preachers in New York City in a time of outstanding preaching)
 - Martyn Lloyd-Jones (major exponent of verse-by-verse expository preaching; British, 20th century)
 - Fleming Rutledge (notable Episcopal woman preacher of 20th/21st century)

You will find these sermons in books on reserve, as follows:

Volumes 6, 9, 10, 11, 20 Centuries of Great Preaching
Rutledge, Fleming, The Bible and the New York Times
Taylor, Gardner C., The Scarlet Thread: Nineteen Sermons

2. Due October 16: A two to three page paper on Old Testament Stories from the Back Side. These sermons are in narrative style. Examine them from what has been said in class about this form of development. Don't summarize the sermons, but consider these questions,

giving examples from the sermons: Do they deal with the text? Do they evoke interest? Are they likely to be remembered? To what degree are they expository?

3. Due November 15: A paper of six to seven pages on a work of literature from the list below. Substitutions are allowed, but must be specifically approved by Dr. Kalas. Begin by analyzing what this reading has done for you as a preacher. Then, give two sermon ideas (summarized, with a title and a Scripture lesson reference), three illustrations, and four quotes, all with page references. The illustrations and quotes can “stand alone”; that is, they need not be related in any way to the sermon ideas.

Poetry:

T.S. Eliot, The Complete Poems and Plays

Plays:

Arthur Miller, Death of a Salesman AND Archibald Macleish, J.B.

Novels:

Georges Bernanos, The Diary of a Country Priest

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Crime and Punishment

George Eliot, Middlemarch

Graham Greene, The Heart of the Matter

Sinclair Lewis, Babbitt

Alan Paton, Too Late the Phalarope AND Cry, The Beloved Country

John Steinbeck, East of Eden

John Updike, In the Beauty of the Lilies

Robert Penn Warren, All the King's Men

Charles Williams, All Hallow's Eve

OR Descent into Hell

Thomas Wolfe, The Web and the Rock

OR You Can't Go Home Again

(Please note the AND and OR in the above list, lest you err on this assignment.)

4. On October 16 or 18, you will give a 5-6 minute homily in class, without notes or manuscript, on an assigned passage. You will not be graded on this assignment, but it will give you an opportunity to speak, acclimate yourself to the experience, and begin the critiquing process.
5. On October 30, November 1, or November 6, you will give a 9-10 minute homily in class, without notes or manuscript, on an assigned passage.
6. Between November 13 and December 11 or 13, you will give a sermon of 15-22 minutes, without notes or manuscript, on a text of your own choosing, in a style that is most comfortable for you.
7. Due December 6: A paper of 6-8 pages, giving your theology of preaching. This paper will be a product of your semester's work, reflecting a) classroom lecture; b) reading from both

the Demaray and Craddock texts; c) insights that have appeared during the critiquing process; and d) your own personal thinking - - with emphasis on the latter. I want more than a term paper of research materials - - rather, a personal declaration of faith as it relates to why and how we preach.

BASIS FOR GRADING:

Written work: roughly 60 percent, weighted according to the length and complexity of the papers.

Oral sermons, roughly 35 percent. I watch especially for evidences of care in preparation, and signs of growth. Getting an 'A' in PR610 does not mean that you are, or will be, a great preacher; nor will a lower grade suggest that you will not someday be a pulpit giant. On to perfection!

Classroom participation, roughly 5 percent.