

Preaching as Symbolic Congregational Leadership





Defining Pastoral Leadership

Pastoral leadership is:

shepherding a congregation of God's people in their entire life together,

serving under Christ as their only Head who by His Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies,

and administering the Word and Sacraments to build up each member to use their gifts,

that they might together serve their neighbors in love and make disciples of all nations.

6th
EDITION

**ARTISTRY,
CHOICE, AND
LEADERSHIP**

REFRAMING

ORGANIZATIONS

LEE G. BOLMAN

TERRENCE E. DEAL

“Symbols carry powerful intellectual and emotional messages; they speak to both the mind and the heart. The symbolic frame focuses on how humans make sense of the chaotic, ambiguous world in which they live. Meaning, belief, and faith are its central concerns.”

“From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering.’ ... This takes place through the preaching of the gospel, which makes known the name of Christ and the Father’s mercy promised in Christ. The proclamation of the gospel produces faith in those who receive the gospel. They call upon God, they give thanks to God, they bear afflictions for their confession, they do good works on account of the glory of Christ. In this way the name of the Lord becomes great among the nations.”

Apology XXIV (KW 264.31-32)




Paul & the Gift

JOHN M. G. BARCLAY

“Since God’s incongruous grace dissolves former criteria of worth, it forms the basis for innovative groups of converts, by loosening their ties to pre-constituted norms and uniting them in their common faith in Christ. The starting point is the framing of the *Christ-event as gift*. Christ’s death ‘for our sins’ is interpreted by Paul in the language of gift...The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are thus, for Paul, the focal point of divine beneficence...The goal of Paul’s mission is the formation of communities whose distinct patterns of life bear witness to an event that has broken with normal criteria of worth.” (p. 567, 569)

“The transformative power of grace has broader implications for communal and societal realities...(John Barclay’s description of the incongruous character of the gift of Christ) is one example of how attention to the affective dimensions of Christian transformation shows us why experience of divine grace, while never less than personal, is never simply ‘private’ or individual. Sanctified affects, no less than the ones which underpin idolatry and sin, are always embedded in multilayered contexts and histories.” (p. 224)

OXFORD



The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience

S I M E O N Z A H L



“The church-as-institution, with its routine administrative tasks, strives to dominate us after the fashion of the law. The church-as-proclaiming is the assembly of the saints where the gospel is preached in its fullness and the sacraments are administered, whereby the risen Christ presents himself with the forgiveness of sins. The proclaiming church is the local congregation in action, the right place for investing manpower as well as funds.”

- Gudina Tumsa

“The Church as an Institution”



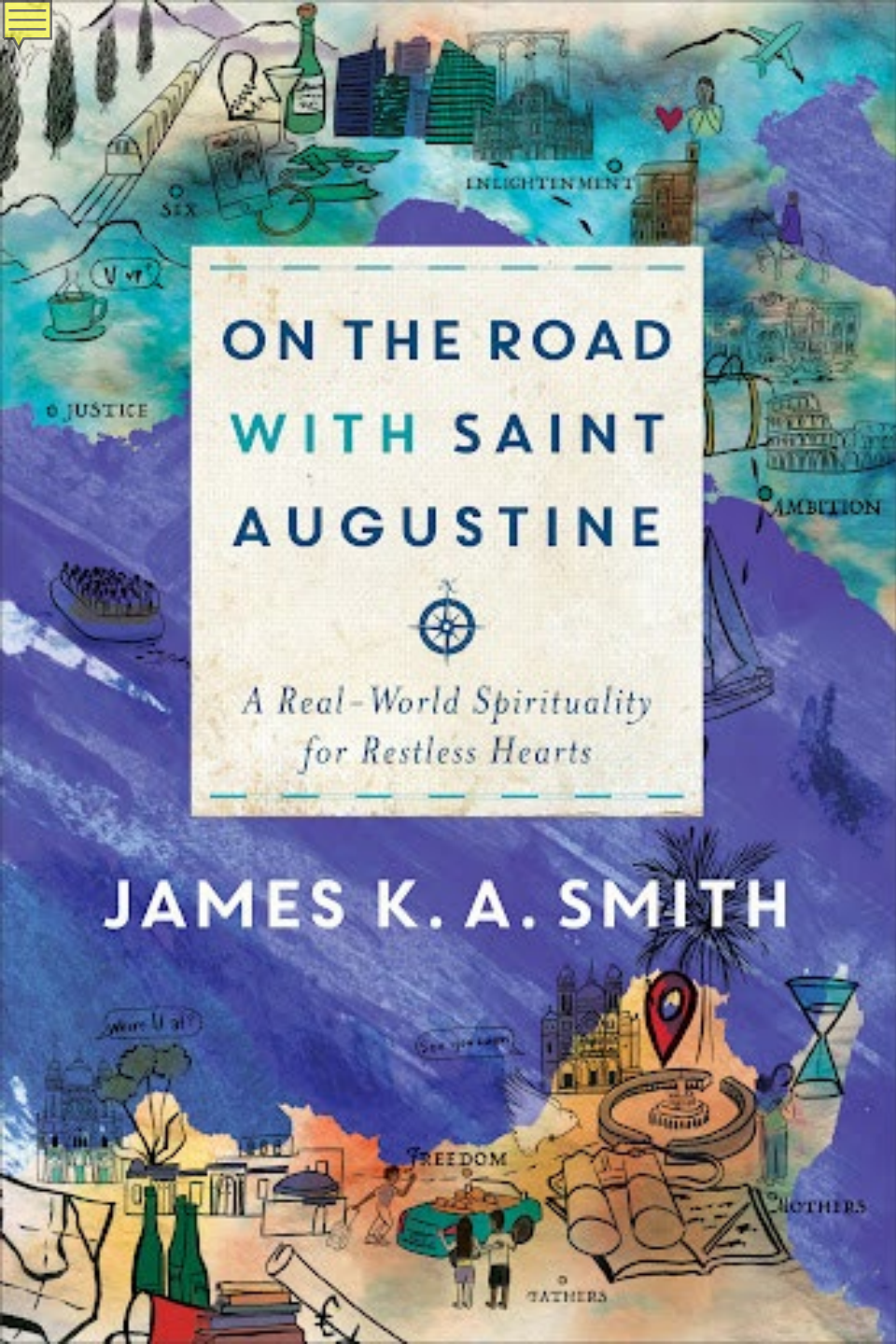
“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (ESV)

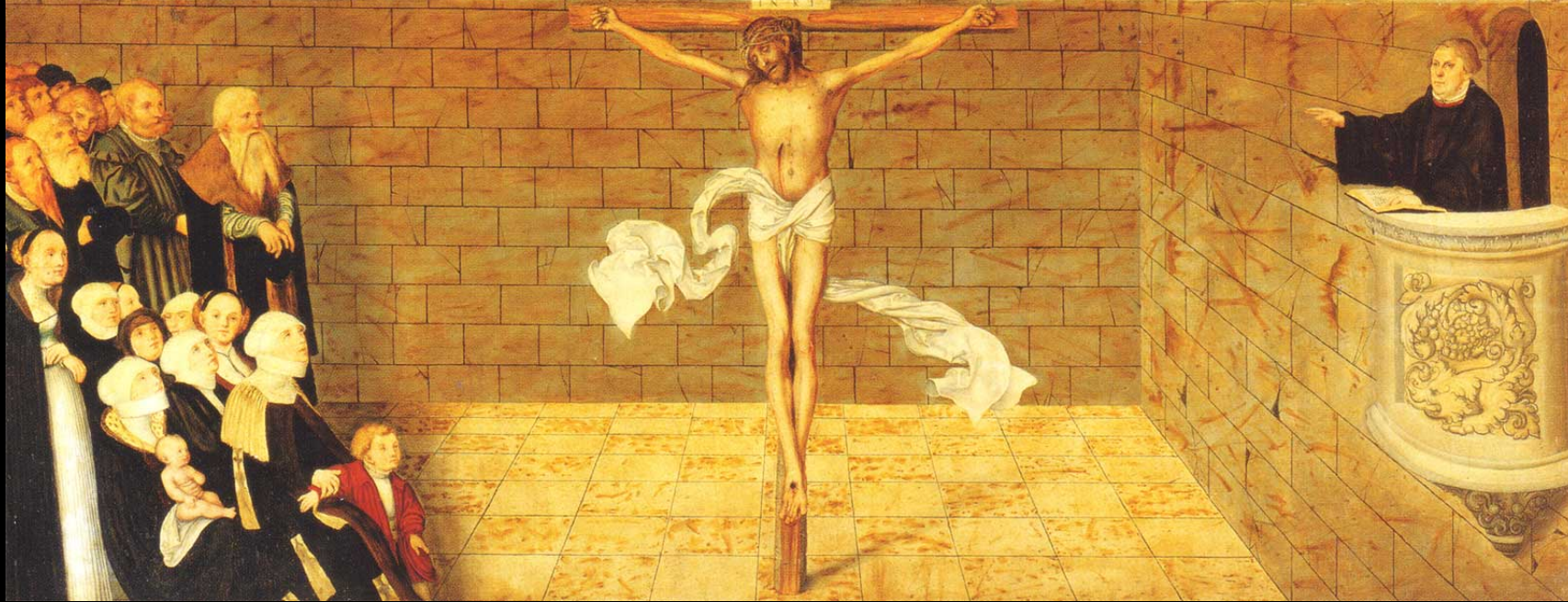
“You (all) are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)



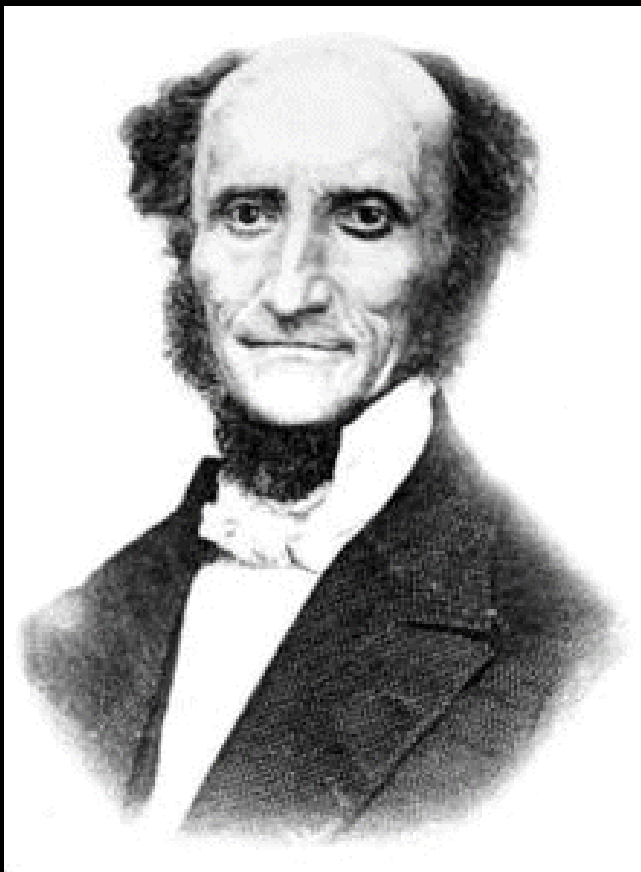


“The road, the journey, the quest not only organizes his *Confessions*; it is a dominant metaphor of Augustine’s spirituality...If we look at Augustine’s understanding of *peregrinatio* through the synonyms of his preaching, we see an arduous picture of the Christian life. If we want a snapshot of what the Christian life looks like...look at the suffering hopeful in Calais, France or in McAllen, Texas...In many ways, the *Confessions* represent the redemption of rhetoric for Augustine...He invites us into a story...Augustine is writing to *move hearts*.



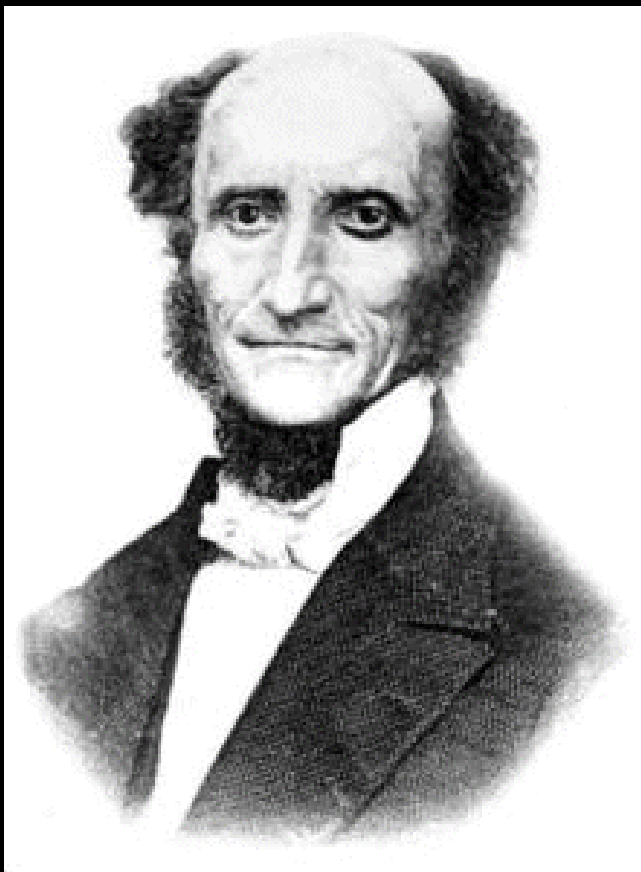
“Now if I should rush in and abolish (the mass) by force, there are many who would be compelled to consent to it and yet not know where they stand...This forcing and commanding results in a mere mockery...For where the heart is not good, I care nothing at all for the work. We must first win the hearts of the people. But that is done when I teach only the Word of God, preach the Gospel, and say, ‘Dear lords or pastors, abandon the mass, it is not right, you are sinning when you do it.’”

- Second Invocavit Sermon, March 10, 1522 LW 51:76



A Sermon on the
Day of Christ's
Epiphany
Matt. 2:1-12
1850

“Shortly after the discovery of this continent a little more than 350 years ago, people who called themselves Christians perpetrated the most deplorable atrocities ever committed under the sun. At that time the Roman Catholic Spanish gruesomely slaughtered upwards of 15 million Indians like wildlife in the woods. This is not to mention the terrible frustrations that have been heaped upon these unbelievers through all times right up to this very hour which has led to their hardened hearts to the Christian faith. Don't we Christian inhabitants of this land carry an immeasurable responsibility for these poor people? Woe to all the citizens of these States



A Sermon on the
Day of Christ's
Epiphany
Matt. 2:1-12
1850

Who do not want to do anything to bring these most unfortunate unbelievers, born here in the West, the comfort of the Gospel and its eternal treasures! We live on their hills and fields. We pasture our herds upon their prairies...O, my precious people, let us then, even if many have forgotten their responsibility, be mindful of this and be concerned that our poor Indian brothers be enlightened by the bright star of the Word of God that now shines over us...So it is certain that if, by all the offerings that we would bring to this holy mission, only a single person would be won...it would be nothing compared to what God himself spent for each of us by his own blood."

LEADING WITH THE SERMON

Preaching as Leadership

WILLIAM H. WILLIMON



“Leadership is necessary only if an organization needs to go somewhere and if an organization is accountable to a mission more important than its own survival...As a preacher, rather than have my voice stifled by empathy with those who might be uncomfortable by my words, I need to muster empathy for all those who are suffering because they never hear in a sermon the word they are dying to hear...I therefore believe that preaching is the most formative and determinative of all pastoral duties, the fount from which all theologically driven leadership flows.”



The Limits of Leading by Preaching

- Preaching won't always convince everyone. Some situations and some people call for different approaches.
- Preaching should never be mere coercion. That is an improper distinction of Law and Gospel.
- Preaching should never be about a pastor's opinions nor a strategy to push particular tactics to accomplish the mission.
- Preaching should never be used in a vindictive way after a contentious meeting for the pastor to get in his personal last word on the subject.



The Benefits of Leading by Preaching

- Preaching helps a congregation see that the Lord could use even them to accomplish the mission.
- Even those who don't see themselves as leaders can still lead by preaching the Scriptures.
- Preaching can shape a congregational culture and form them into a new kind of people.
- Preaching can fill a congregation with a commission from their Lord.
- Preaching uniquely inspires hope among a congregation.