Missional Preaching
McCormick Theological Seminary
J-Term 2010

John Dally
Visiting Associate Professor of Preaching and Missional Leadership
Phone: (847) 866-3972
Email: john.dally@garrett.edu

Course Description:

The concept of missionality is at once relatively new and already overused. It emerged from the rediscovery of New Testament missiology in the beginning of the 20th Century but became synthesized with aspects of the Church Growth Movement in the 1990s, leading to the use of “missional” to describe everything from bake sales to aggressive membership campaigns. This course will seek to relocate “missional preaching” in the context of the earliest linking of “sending” and “preaching” in the New Testament, Luke 9:2: “[Jesus] sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.” How do we preach the kingdom of God in 2010? What needs to change, in us and in our listeners, in order for the kingdom of God to be preached and received? We will reexamine our self-images as preachers and ask whether and in what ways our preaching offers our listeners agency to claim the kingdom for themselves.

Course Goals:


2. To know the difference between biblical missionality and the many other ways the word is used in contemporary ecclesiology and congregational development theory.


4. To experiment with additional approaches to missional preaching that also respond to the New Testament criteria for missionality.

5. To become a different kind of preacher rooted in a self-image that is neither docent nor salesperson but proclaimer of the reign of God.

Required Work:

1. One sermon preached in class, one sermon preached after class with an accompanying 8-10 page paper.

2. Approximately 600 pages of reading divided between pre-reading, reading during the two weeks of class, and follow-up reading.

3. Participation in all class discussions and feedback sessions for preachers.
Required Texts:

Dally, John A. Choosing the Kingdom: Missional Preaching for the Household of God. (Alban Institute Press: 2007)
Koyama, Koysuke. Water Buffalo Theology (Orbis Books, 1999)

Pre-Class Assignment

Please read Choosing the Kingdom, and prepare a missional sermon using the guidelines found in Chapter 7, especially pages 113-121. Come to class prepared to preach the sermon. Please read Ellul 1-48 and 79-112, Budde 28-52 and 67-149, Koyama 1-50, 76-90, 171-180 and hooks 1-50, 85-102, 127-166.

Class Schedule

Monday 1:00-5:30
What would it mean to welcome the reign of God into our classroom?
The roots and developments of the concept of missionality.
Reading the Gospel of Mark through the lens of the reign of God.
Sermons 1, 2 and 3

Tuesday 9-12:15; 1:30-5:30
The relationship between the living the reign of God on earth and socialism in light of the Ellul reading.
Continued reading of Mark.
Sermons 4, 5 and 6
“Brother Sun, Sister Moon”

Wednesday 9-12:15; 1:30-5:30
The influence of media on faith and practice through the lens of Budde reading.
Continued reading of Mark.
Sermons 7, 8 and 9
“Luther”
Thursday 9-12:15; 1:30-5:30

The state as agent of the reign of God
Lincoln’s Second Inaugural address
Sermons 10, 11 and 12
The church as agent of the reign of God
“Romero”

Friday 9-12:15

What elements of our contexts are welcoming of the reign of God? What elements work against it? Where is our own agency in this situation?

After the Class

Write and preach a second missional sermon in light of class learnings and send it to me for a response along with a commentary on how you prepared it and how it was received. Use Ekblad’s book and class notes to analyze your sermon and its response. Sermon 4-8 pages, commentary 8-10 pages.

Grading:

1. Preparation, attendance and participation in class discussion: 30%
2. Sermon preached in class: 30%
3. Sermon preached after class with accompanying paper: 40%