

## **How To Give A Sermon**

A very long time ago (maybe the 1980's) somewhere around Milwaukee, Ron and Marilyn invited us to church on a Sunday morning. It was a very large church with an active congregation. The title of the sermon that day was "How To Give A Sermon". I thought the advice was very professional and could be used on many occasions to explain an objective to a group of people. The speaker had refined his discussion topics and explanation by giving a lot of sermons using his own advice and experience.

Sermons are designed to convey some beliefs or information to the audience in less than an hour, because that appears to be the tolerance level of the audience, and the length of time needed to explain the ideas adequately. The suggestion is to divide the sermon into three approximately equal parts:

1. **What?** What is the issue involved here? How does it affect my life as well as other people and places. Define the issues that are related.
2. **So What?** Why should we be interested? What is the importance to the world? How can we make a better place if we do something about the issue?
3. **Now What!** What can be done to change our behavior and the processes around us to address this issue.

I thought that the advice given for a sermon was applicable to many situations where the speaker is trying to convey a message to the listener. The progression of thought is reasonable and attempts to give the speaker a process to go through that the listener can relate to and understand.

Sometimes it is difficult for every minister to provide a relevant topic for a sermon on a once a week basis. Therefore, some churches provide their participants with a given sermon for the week. That sermon could be based on some current event or biblical point that could use some enhancement or explanation of relevance in modern times.

My apologies to the actual lecturer on this subject if I have failed to communicate adequately the intent of the sermon. I wish I could have provided more details.

My recollection is that the church service also included a musical performance by a clarinet/flute player and some singing by the large choir and participatory congregation. Perhaps some involvement by the people enhances the message of the day.

Despite the attractiveness of the message and the experiences of the day, I do not recall having been to any church service since then except the occasional wedding.