

Catchy Sermon Titles

Have you ever noticed how a catchy title of a sermon can make you curious? Imagine hearing a sermon titled, "I'm So Sick of Frogs I Could Croak." At first glance, it sounds like a joke, but it points to the plague of frogs in Exodus 8. How about "When the Jailhouse Rocked"? It's not about Elvis, but rather Paul and Silas praising God in a Philippian prison until an earthquake shook the jail and opened every door (Acts 16).

Creative sermon titles can serve a purpose. They spark interest, capture attention, and invite people to discover what God's Word has to say on a particular subject. Jesus often used memorable word pictures involving seeds, sheep, pearls, vineyards, and fishermen to help people remember spiritual truths. Vivid imagery has a way of staying with us long after the sermon ends.

Of course, a title alone doesn't make a sermon. An interesting phrase may gain someone's attention, but only the truth of Scripture can change a heart. I've noticed that sermons with intriguing titles often receive more views on YouTube. That reality can tempt preachers to spend more time crafting the perfect title than ensuring the lesson is firmly grounded in biblical truth. While there's nothing wrong with a creative title, it should never overshadow the message itself. The goal is not to entertain people, but to point all of us to God's Word.

So don't be surprised if you occasionally hear an unusual sermon title. It may make you smile, raise an eyebrow, or leave you wondering what it's about. If it encourages you to open your Bible, listen more carefully, and leave with a deeper understanding of God's truth, then it has accomplished exactly what it was intended to do.

On the other hand, don't overlook a sermon with a simple title like "Love" or "Salvation". If a lesson is rooted in God's Word, then it's worth hearing, regardless of whether its title is clever or plain!

- by Josh McCord

Born Again?

In John 3:3, Jesus told Nicodemus that a person must be born again to see the kingdom of God. In response Nicodemus asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (vs 4) From this response we can see that Nicodemus thought that Jesus was referring to a physical birth. To this misunderstanding Jesus responded, "Most assuredly,...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (vs 5) When Jesus said, "...born of water..." He was not referring to the physical birth. The water which Jesus referred to was baptism. One is born of the water and the Spirit when he obeys Mark 16:16 and other such passages. How do we know that the baptism mentioned in Mark 16:16 was water baptism? Consider some bible examples: The eunuch in Acts 8:36 knew that water was necessary. He asked, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" In Acts 10:47, Peter asked the question, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized...?" Lest someone think that it is the water that saves a person, we must remind ourselves of what Peter said. Peter explains that it is not the water that saves a person; instead, it is his obedience to God's command. (1 Pet. 3:21) A person is saved by the grace of God when he is born again of the water and the Spirit. If you have not been born again, then please choose to be born of the water and of the Spirit.

- by John Duvall

Are You Invested?

People make investments in stocks, real estate, savings accounts, and 401(k)s. Much of this is done with the future in mind - especially retirement. When we have money invested, we pay attention to it. We watch it. We are interested in how it is doing. Why? Because we want a good return on our investment. The same principle applies to spiritual things.

Are you **invested in your eternal destiny**? If heaven is really our goal, then it should affect the way we live every day. Jesus said, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20).

Are you **invested in the local church**? Do you care about its strength and growth? If we truly care about the church, it will show in our attendance, our giving, our service, our encouragement, and our willingness to work. We will be "steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Are you **invested in the spiritual well-being of your family**? Do you care about the faith of your children and grandchildren? If so, you will make time to teach them, encourage them, and set the right example. God's Word tells us to diligently teach His truth to our children (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

The truth is simple: **What we are invested in will show!**

If we are invested in heaven, it will show in our lives. If we are invested in the church, it will show in our commitment. If we are invested in our families, it will show in the time and effort we give them. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). So, where is your investment?

One day, our earthly investments will be gone. But the spiritual investments we make will have eternal consequences. Let's make sure we are investing in the things that matter most. Think!

- by Greg Gwin