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Reeb's "Say something!: Simple ways to make your sermons matter" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Reeb, C. (2019). *Say something!/: Simple ways to make your sermons matter*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 101 pp. \$15.99. ISBN 9781501874390

Charley Reeb is currently the Senior Pastor of Johns Creek United Methodist Church in Johns Creek, Georgia. He has pastored for nearly twenty years, and has a Master of Divinity from Emory University, and a Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary. He is also the author of another book on preaching written in 2017 titled *That'll Preach! 5 Simple Steps to Your Best Sermon Ever*.

Based on his research and experience, Reeb claims at the beginning of *Say something!* that good preaching is wanted in the pew and is vital for the spiritual health and growth of the church. Unfortunately, he says, many pulpits are bereft of this preaching. Reeb offers his book as a cure for this problem and says it can provide sermon delivery help that will change lives and grow churches.

Reeb asserts that preaching not only informs listeners about God but also transforms listeners through an “event” in which they experience “God’s truth for their lives” (p. xviii). However, for a person’s preaching to be “eventful” Reeb preaches that, besides study and prayer, six communication techniques or “elements” are needed (p. xx).

Most of Reeb’s book is explaining the six elements of eventful preaching including examples and acronyms for different communication techniques. Each element progresses in designing a sermon that has a clear point, is easily followed, captivating, memorable, and can “touch the heart” of the listener (p. 51). The last element, and one Reeb states is not often done, but separates “great preachers from the rest,” is rehearsing or memorizing the sermon (p. 71). Interposed between the preaching elements are sections on reaching millennials, using TED talk methods, and sermon brevity and transcripts. The final pages of the book contain appendices and endnotes.

For those looking for a non-scholarly quick read on preaching, *Say Something!* does have something to say that could enhance sermon delivery. Readers who like expositional preaching will be disappointed of its absence in the book, and complementarians will be uncomfortable with the mention of women preachers. While all sermons need to be bathed in prayer and empowered through God’s Word and the Holy Spirit, Reeb is to be commended for writing a book for preachers about public speaking skills that can enhance communication from the pulpit to the pew.

Reviewer

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