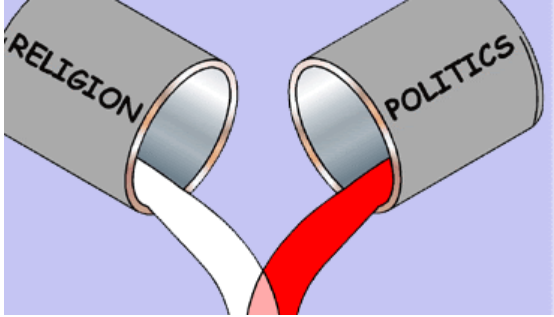


How to include race in your preaching

By Shannon Polk for Jesus
Collective



Internal Questions



"First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate.

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate,

who is more devoted to "order" than to justice;

who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice;

who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action";

who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom;

who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season."

Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Ricoeur's The Course of Recognition from Helsel

- Identity
 - What is white culture?
 - Peggy McIntosh – The invisible knapsack of white privilege



Cognition

- How does racism impact people in their day to day lives?
- How aware are you of racial history, laws, and legacy?
- Dissonance: bias, normative, culturally acceptable, ingroup preferences, white supremacy

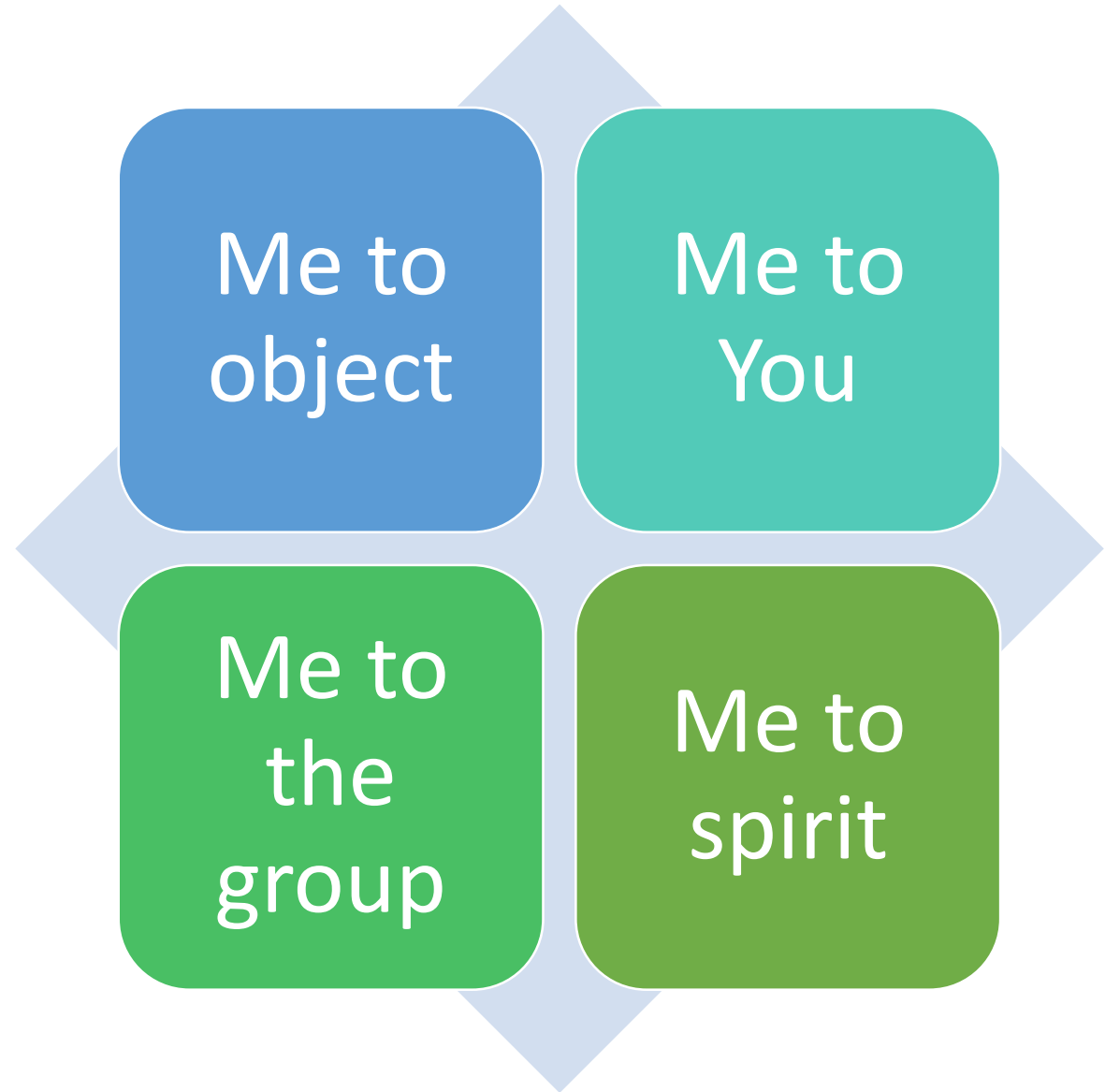


Gratitude

- What does it mean to be blessed or to teach good news?
- Going from guilt to gratefulness
- We are sin aware, debt relieved, and now we live without guilt and condemnation but with joy and gratefulness



Axiologies





Imagination

- Identities
- Default
- Approach
- Preference
- Esau McCaulley – Reading while Black



Fear

- Of getting it wrong
- Of being misunderstood
- Of being ostracized
- Of not being comfortable
- Of being labeled racist
- Of what to do next



Language

How to help your
congregants use the right
words and understand the
terminology

Helping people understand
what it means to be
“othered”



Developing
a new
identity
-Helsel

Contact

Disintegration

Reintegration

Pseudo-Independence

Immersion

Autonomy

BIPOC

- Consistently told they are not enough
- Myth of assimilation as a model minority
- Perpetual foreigner
- Second-class or third-class citizen
- Lived experiences of racism



Texts have
historically
been
misused to
support
racism
-Willimon

- Children of Ham
- Slavery submission
- Separation of unbelievers and believers –
unequally yoked
- Have you been taught racism in the text?



Where racial/cultural preferences show up?

- Leadership positions
- Curriculum
- Food
- Art
- Music
- Activities
- Rituals or Keystone Life Events



How are you living?


- “Yet there can be no Christian community, said Bonhoeffer, where there is silence about injustice.”
- 75% of your sermon is the life you lead






Diversify your life

Name the women and
BiPOC theologians who are
on your shelves, podcast
list or conferences



Spiritual Formation -Alcantara

- “Deep sermons cannot be preached by shallow people. Profound sermons only come from people who enjoy a profound relationship with God. Like it or not, the condition of our personal relationship with God will control our public ministry for God.” – J. Kent Edwards
- 



Self-reflection as we expose ourselves to the light of the Spirit

QUESTIONS



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Questions to pose

- What is your congregation experiencing?
- What does your congregation struggle with regarding race?
- What lesson of good news or redemption can the text provide the listener?

Pablo Jimenez

1. by looking for the places of marginalization in the biblical text as an entry point;
2. by seeking points of contact between one's community and the text;
3. by making a correlation of social locations between the characters in the story and members of one's community; and
4. by finding a key metaphor to help communicate the liberating gospel to the listeners.

Using the bible to speak to ...


- racism/oppresion/bias
 - Hagar
 - Good Samaritan
 - Cornelius and Peter
 - Moses and the Exodus
 - Esther
- the marginalized
 - Widows
 - Orphans
 - Foreigners
 - Others



Imago Dei

- Am I your neighbor?
- Am I capable of being in relationship to you?
- Am I a threat?
- Am I less intelligent?
- Do I possess inferior traits?
- Am I to be controlled?
- If you don't see me like God sees me, you can't love me like He commanded.





Power of Story – Helsel & Willimon

- What stories of racism or transformation do you know?
- How can you learn them?
- When can you use examples from other ethnicities and cultures as sermon illustrations?
- How can your stories provide additional illumination of the text?




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Internal and External Stories

- What is the honest history of your church?
- Who do you reach out to and why?



Humility with our listeners

- I must stand with, not above nor beneath.
 - I must offer compassion because such were some of you
 - I must recognize the divine intervention that allowed me to learn about racism
 - I must speak with grace and patience
 - I must offer good news, knowing that I'm merely a tool in the Master's hand
- 

What should we say?

- The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed. (Luke 4:18)





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- Alcántara, Jared E.. The Practices of Christian Preaching (p. 66). Baker Publishing Group