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THE OPTICS OF HOMILETICS : PREACHING AS REFRAMING OF PERSPECTIVE

Cilliers, Johan (2012-02)

Inaugural lecture delivered on 21 February 2012.

OTHER

Johan Cilliers was born in Luanshya, Zambia (1954); matriculated in De Aar (1972), and received his theological training at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, as well as the Karl Rupprecht University in Heidelberg, Germany. He has obtained the following degrees: DTh Theology, Stellenbosch University (SU) 1982; Licentiate in Theology, SU 1979 (cum laude); MTh Theology, SU 1979 (cum laude); BTh Theology, SU 1978 (cum laude), and BA Philosophy and Greek, SU 1975 (cum laude). After having served as minister in two Dutch Reformed congregations (in Durban and Stellenbosch), he was appointed as senior lecturer at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, and is currently professor of Homiletics and Liturgy at this institution. He is head of the Department of Practical Theology and Missiology at the Faculty; president of the Society for Practical Theology in South Africa, as well as vice-president of the Societas Homiletica (the international society for Homiletics). He has delivered guest lectures at the University of Umea, Sweden, as well as the Humboldt University, Germany, and has written nine academic books, inter alia on preaching, liturgy and aesthetics. He has co-authored two books with international scholars, respectively on the foolishness of preaching (with American author Charles Campbell) and worshipping in the so-called 'Network Society' (with Dutch author Marcel Barnard). He has published more than 60 academic articles in accredited journals, and authored 23 popular religious books, for which he has received numerous awards from the Christian Booksellers Association of Southern Africa (CBSA). He has received the Rector's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2003), the Best Lecturer Award from the Golden Key International Society and SU's Academic Affairs Council (2008), as well as the Rector's Award for Excellence in Research (2010). As researcher, he holds a National Research Foundation (NRF) rating and has received grants from the Harry Oppenheimer Memorial Trust as well as the SU Research Committee. He is fond of languages (speaks German and studies French among others) and enjoys dabbling in art.1 He is married to Elna, and is the (very proud) father of twins, Jacques and Karen.

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Over the last few decades in the United States, some homiletical theorists and preachers have questioned the hegemony of the traditional rhetorical approaches to preaching. Many alternative styles and approaches have been developed, many of which are called "narrative" in either style or content. Narrative Preaching (also known as "the New Homiletic") is a branch of homiletics that developed in the 20th century. The term "Narrative" refers to the style of the sermon, not its content; many Narrative Preaching as reframing of perspective. Preaching with integrity, imagination and hope. Narrative Preaching: Theory and Praxis of a New Way of Preaching. Craddock has indeed brought to light core elements in homiletical research – elements still serving as a stimulus for research on hermeneutical homiletics. Craddock's approach to preaching – the inductive method – directs the attention to the structure of the sermon, as well as the "movements" and the development of the train of thought within the sermon as essential elements of inductive preaching. Furthermore, the aim of uniting the different elements of the sermon and the use of imaginative language in a sermon is also stressed by Craddock's method.