

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice.
The information below is provided as a guide for course selection
and is not binding in any form.

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

BE5503 Preaching Narrative and Parabolic Literature, 3 credit hours

Course Description

This course examines the method of preparing and delivering sermons from the narrative and parabolic genres of scripture. Issues related to interpreting these genres will be addressed. Students will prepare sermons from Old and New Testament narratives and Jesus' parables in the Gospels. *Prerequisites:* BE-5501 Hermeneutics for Preaching and BE-5502 Communicating Scripture; BE-5502 can be taken concurrently.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. **Explain** the rationale for preaching sermons from the narrative and parabolic literature in one's ministry and in the life of the church.
2. **Discover** the exegetical idea of a given narrative or parable through an exegetical process which pays attention to the literary artistry of the text.
3. **Apply** a given narrative or parable personally and then to their listeners, locating this application in the narrative's theological message and connecting it to the storyline of the Bible and the gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. **Construct** from a narrative or parable an expository sermon which communicates its big idea and uses a narrative form.
5. **Assess** the effectiveness of a given sermon on a narrative or parable to follow its plot and maintain narrative tension.
6. **Deliver** the sermon without notes in a clear, compelling way that draws listeners into the narrative or parable.

Course Textbook(s) and/or Supplemental Information

Required textbooks for all Moody Online classes can be found on the [Required Textbooks](#) section of the Moody website.

NOTE: This course requires the videotaping of students giving sermons and uploading their video into YouTube or Vimeo. You will need an account with one of these providers.

NOTE: Additional content or links to Internet content may be required and will be provided in the course.

Assignments

See the Syllabus page in the Blackboard course for general assignment instructions.

Part 1. Special Assignment Instructions:

[**Note:** There are FOUR TYPES of assignments for this course, represented by the letters A through D. There is one miscellaneous assignment also.]

A. Sermon Exegesis Assignments (1-1, 5-2): Each assignment must be at least **THREE double-spaced pages**. Do your own thinking first, and then consult the commentaries in the Course Resources folder for the week the assignment is due (Week 1 for Old Testament narrative, Week 4 for New Testament narrative, and Week 5 for the Parables).

When you cite a commentary or another resource, simply put the author, abbreviated title, and page number in parentheses as in the following example: (Bergen, 1 Samuel, 78). Use the bibliography from this syllabus for your bibliography at the end of your paper for the commentaries you use, such as:

Bergen, Robert D. "1, 2 Samuel." *The New American Commentary*. Vol. 7. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996. Pages 184-199.

These commentaries can be found in the "Course Resources" folder in Blackboard:

- Week 1:** Old Testament Narrative Text: 1 Samuel 17:1-58
[Use: OT Narrative commentaries: Bergen, Chisholm, and Tsumura]

- Week 5:** Parable Text: Matthew 18:21-35
[Use: Parable Commentaries: Blomberg, Carson, and Snodgrass]

Your paper should be organized around the following headings (note that the first four can be remembered by the acronym "ACTS"):

1. Action – Describe the way that the narrative develops, using the categories of exposition, crisis (or rising tension), resolution, and conclusion (denouement). Discuss any unique patterns or structure, such as the repetition of a key word or phrase.

2. Characters – Identify the characters (major and minor), and discuss how the major characters develop and relate to each other in the story. What do we learn about these characters from their actions and the comments made by the narrator about them? [*The next question is for the Parable text only*] In Matthew 18:21-35, whom do the various characters in the story represent?

3. Talking – List the key statements made by the characters. Also, indicate which statements seem to capture an emphasis in the narrative or even its main idea. [Note: This feature is not always as prominent in many of the parables, although it is in Matthew 18:21-35.]

4. Setting – Discuss both the historical-cultural setting of the narrative as well as its literary setting. For the latter, explain how this particular narrative fits into the surrounding chapters and how it develops the Gospel author’s overall argument.

5. Vision of God – In a sentence or two, describe what attribute or aspect of God’s character is prominent in the story. For example, does the story highlight God’s care for the poor and marginalized? Does it show that God is a talking God who gives commands? Does it emphasize that God shows his love without compromising his justice? Does it stress that God is all-powerful?

6. Depravity Factor – In a sentence or two, describe what sinful tendency works against this aspect of God’s character. In some narratives, this is quite obvious. In others, you may have to think more deeply about what sin or problem this narrative is addressing.

7. Exegetical Idea – Write out the exegetical idea in one sentence. You must also indicate the idea’s “subject” and “complement.”

Assignments for this type:

- **1-1 Sermon Exegesis Assignment:** Prepare a THREE-page summary of your exegetical work on **1 Samuel 17** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
 - **5-2 Sermon Exegesis Assignment:** Prepare a THREE-page summary of your exegetical work on **Matthew 18:21-35** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
-

B. Sermon Outlines (2-1, 5-1, 6-1): Prepare a **ONE-page outline** of your sermon. The outline points must be written as *complete sentences*. At the top of the page, include the sermon title (centered) and sermon text (centered). Then, for your main headings, use ‘Introduction,’ I., II., III., etc., and ‘Conclusion.’ Use ‘A, B, C, etc.’ for your sub-points. Make sure to label the “Big Idea.” It should be one of your main outline points. For some sample outlines (or portions of outlines), consult Mathewson, *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*, pp. 125, 127, and 129.

Assignments for this type:

- **2-1 Sermon Outline:** Prepare a ONE-page sermon outline for **1 Samuel 17** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
 - **5-1 Sermon Outline:** Prepare a ONE-page sermon outline for **Mark 4:35-41** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus. (*Note: You will do only the outline for Mark. Please consult the commentaries for Mark in the Course Resources folder.*)
 - **6-1 Sermon Outline:** Prepare a ONE-page sermon outline for **Matthew 18:21-35** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
-

C. Sermon Manuscripts (3-1, 7-1): Prepare a **SIX-SEVEN page** (single-spaced) manuscript. This manuscript should read like an oral transcript of your sermon and should not have outline points. Break the manuscript down into paragraphs. This breakdown will likely reflect your outline points (even though these will not be visible in your manuscript). Use the sermon manuscripts in Part Three of

Mathewson, *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative* (pp. 161-226), as a model. (You might want to add citations and a bibliography for your own reference in case you ever use this sermon again, but they are not necessary for this assignment.)

Assignments for this type:

- **3-1 Sermon Manuscript:** Prepare a SIX-SEVEN page sermon manuscript on **1 Samuel 17** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
 - **7-1 Sermon Manuscript:** Prepare a SIX-SEVEN page sermon manuscript on **Matthew 18:21-35** according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
-

D. Sermon Delivery Videos (3-2, 8-1): Preach a **25-30 MINUTE** expository sermon on your assigned preaching text. Preferably, deliver this in a ministry setting (worship service, youth group meeting, chapel service, etc.). However, you may deliver it to a group of fellow-students or friends in a less formal setting. Record and upload your sermon to YouTube.com. You are required to deliver this sermon without notes. However, you may do the following: you may write the sermon's big idea in your Bible; you may underline or circle words or phrases in the text in your Bible; you may write one-word "triggers" in the margin of your Bible to remind you of examples you want to use.

Assignment for this type:

- **3-2 Sermon Delivery (video):** Deliver your 25-30 minute sermon on **1 Samuel 17** and make a video recording of it according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
 - **8-1 Sermon Delivery (Video):** Deliver your 25-30 minute sermon on **Matthew 18:21-35** and make a video recording of it according to the instructions in the Course Syllabus.
-

E. Misc. Assignments

- **4-1 Sermon Evaluation:** You will submit your sermon review of another student's sermon for grading.
 - **4-2 Two Common Objections:** In **ONE-page**, discuss two common objections to preaching the narrative texts of Scripture, including the Gospels. The first objection is that "Bible stories are more suited for children than for adults." The second is that "Jesus and Paul are not on the same page theologically." Critique and evaluate both of these ideas. For the first objection, review Mathewson, *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*, p. 23. (This week's reading will help you with the second objection.)
-

Part 2 - Discussions

Week 1: *No Discussion*

Week 2: Discuss your view of preaching Christ from an Old Testament narrative. Explain whether you take a strict Christ-centered approach, a more exemplary approach, or a mediating position. Explain your biblical and theological rationale for your view. What questions or struggles do you still have related to this issue? How will your view impact the way you apply 1 Samuel 17 to your listeners?

Week 3: *No Discussion*

Week 4 Special Discussion Board: Sermon Evaluation: Follow the instructions in Blackboard to submit your Sermon Review for another’s sermon from Assignment 3-2.

Week 5: *No Discussion*

Week 6: Discuss briefly (150 words) your approach for getting accurate historical-cultural background information as you preach the Gospels. Where will you look for reliable information? How will you guard against reading information from later eras back into the time of Jesus? (Note: There is a word counter in bottom right of textbox editor in Blackboard.)

Week 7: Discuss briefly (150 words) how you might help the people to whom you preach gain confidence in the historical reliability and authority of the Gospels in an age when the “lost gospels” have attracted so much interest. How might you address this in your preaching of the Gospels? (Note: There is a word counter in bottom right of textbox editor in Blackboard.)

Week 8: Looking back over all your study and written assignments, discuss **THREE** of the most important ideas you have learned in this course. Make a brief reply to at least **TWO** of your colleagues who mention ideas you did not.

Assessments

Assessments	% of Total
Discussions (Weeks 2, 6, 7, 8)	10
Sermon Evaluation (4-1)	5
Reading Reflection Paper (4-2)	5
Sermon Exegesis Assignments (1-1, 5-2)	20
Sermon Outlines (2-1, 5-1, 6-1)	20
Sermon Manuscripts (3-1, 7-1)	20
Sermon Delivery (3-2, 8-1)	20
Total:	100%



BE5503 - Course Syllabus

Letter grades are determined by the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent	Description
A	96 – 100	Exceptional work
A-	94 – 95	Excellent work
B+	92 – 93	Very good work
B	89 – 91	Good work
B-	87 – 88	Above average work
C+	83 – 86	Average work
C	79 – 82	Work needs improvement
C-	75 – 78	Minimally acceptable work
F	< 75	Unacceptable work