

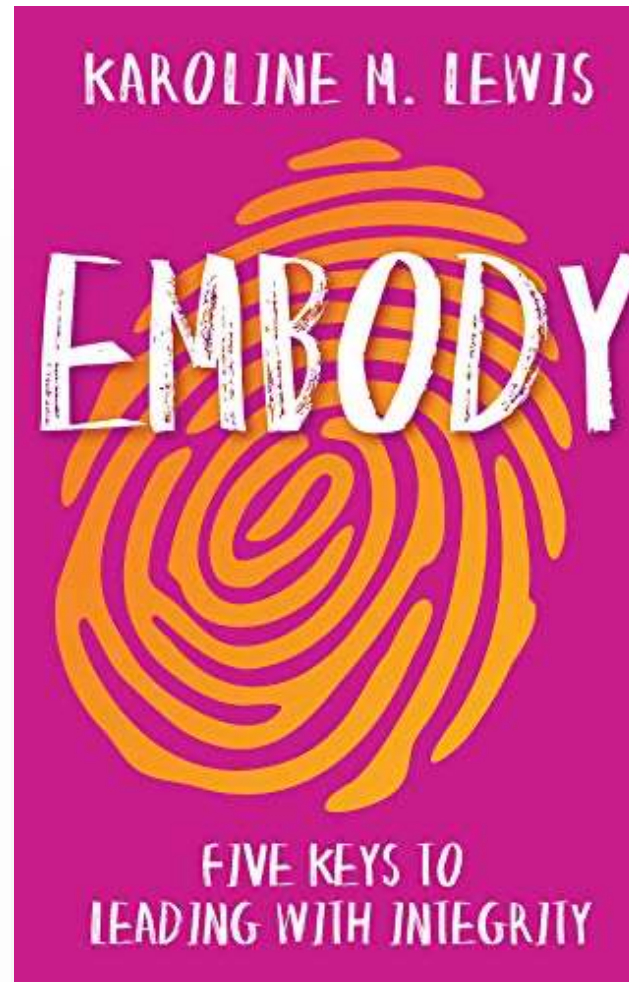
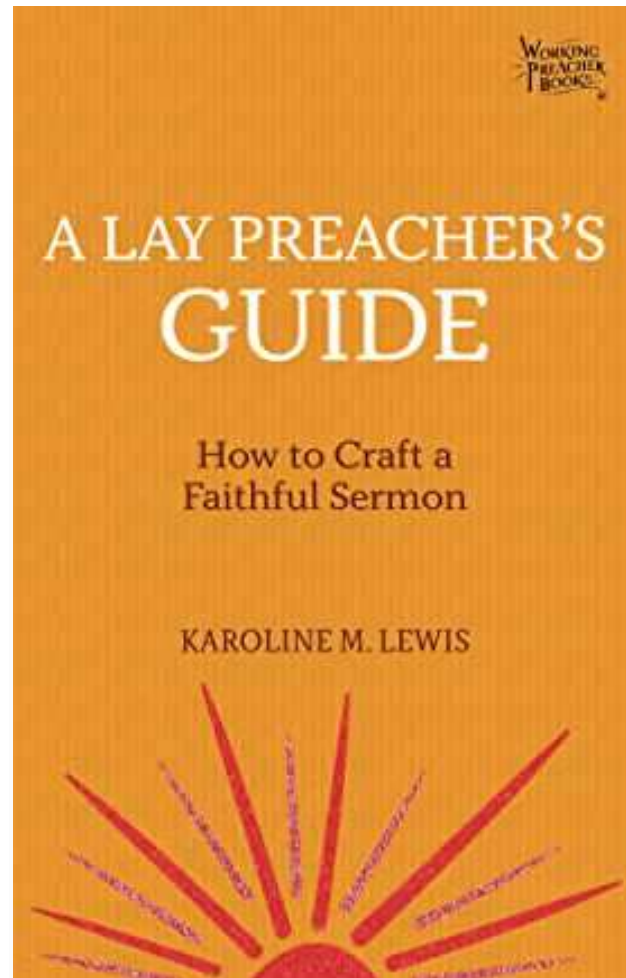


Festival of Homiletics 2020

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Leading With Preaching:
How to Craft a Faithful Sermon



New Books 2020

Embody

Embodiment of Mary
Magdalene's testimony,
"I have seen the Lord!"

*Mary Magdalene in the garden with Jesus, detail of
mosaic in Resurrection Chapel, Washington National
Cathedral*





Eight Characteristics of a Faithful Sermon

- A Faithful Sermon Is Biblical
- A Faithful Sermon Is Autobiographical
- A Faithful Sermon Is Contextual
- A Faithful Sermon Is Theological
- A Faithful Sermon Is Intellectual
- A Faithful Sermon Is Emotional
- A Faithful Sermon Is Inspirational
- A Faithful Preaching Life



A Faithful Sermon Is Biblical

- Preaching communicates that the Bible matters.
- How to read the Bible and be better readers of the Bible.
- How the Bible speaks words of comfort and hope especially now.
- How can our sermons inspire the reading of scripture?



A Faithful Sermon Is Autobiographical

- What comes first? The text or the preacher?
 - What do you bring?
- Preacher as rhetorician – one who senses the poignancy of the moment and is able to speak into it.
- Discovering your inner theologian.

A Faithful Sermon Is Contextual



- Always the case – congregational, communal, national, global.
- Hinge point now – before and after COVID-19.
- Liturgical – keeper of the church year. Another way to mark time these days.



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A Faithful Sermon Is Theological

- Theology as verb and not noun.
- Expand theological imagination: means being open to the specificities of a text's theology.
- We are doing theology here and now, people counting on you – and to help them realize they are theologians as well. They are trying to make sense of what is happening through the lens of belief in God's activity.



A Faithful Sermon Is Intellectual

- A point and a plan.
- What will people remember?
- One of the hardest aspects of crafting a sermon; not only because it is difficult to decide on one claim. But also, risky. The clearer the point, the greater the possibility that someone might disagree with you.
- Challenge new thinking; wonder and discovery.

A Faithful Sermon Is Emotional



- Performance
- Function
- Not just what you say but how you say it.
- John 20:30-31

A Faithful Sermon Is Inspirational

- 2 Timothy 3:16
- The hearers feel as if the very breath of God moves them from worship into the world.
- What can they contribute to experiencing the Kingdom of God here and now.
- Not Sunday-to-Monday transition, but our lives and worship of God integrated and inseparable.



The Preaching Life

- “Look, our God is here!” = Gospel
- Art and a craft
- Tend your imagination
- “But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.” (2 Timothy 1:12)



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