

Rob O'Lynn. *Digital Jazz: Preaching, Media, and Technology*. St. Paul: Working Preacher, 2023. 47 pages.

On May 5, 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an end to COVID-19 as a public health emergency. Although the virus is not as lethal now, it has caused lasting changes in individuals' values, communication, and interrelationships. The church is no exception; many had to cancel in-person worship due to the safety protocol, and clergies who had no help from their small congregations had to quickly learn how to use technology to continue to lead the worship, preach the words, and care for their people. Even now, after the pandemic, technology has become a vital part of ministry for many churches.

In the given context, Rob O'Lynn's *Digital Jazz* is a timely work that evaluates the various aspects of technology and suggests how to use them effectively and responsibly for ministerial work, including preaching. The author derived the title of his book from *Tron: Legacy*, in which Kevin Flynn explains to his son Sam how his creation of technology called ISOs became the "key to revolutionizing almost every human idea," therefore calling it "digital jazz" (3). While technology such as printing, radio, and TV has often been utilized for preaching, O'Lynn believes that the recent advancement in technology is revolutionary by allowing preaching to reach into "even the remotest ecclesial enclaves" (3).

The book comprises 7 chapters. In the 1st chapter, "Preaching and Creativity," O'Lynn encourages readers to engage in multi-sensory approaches to preaching. He points out that Jesus not only proclaimed words, but also used objects, dined with people, and hiked to mountains for preaching (15). As creativity is the very nature of God, preachers should also be creative to reach their audience more holistically. In the 2nd chapter, "Preaching and Graphic Design," O'Lynn discusses several benefits of using graphics for sermons. He explains how graphics could help preachers communicate their messages more clearly, generate interest in the sermon theme, and resonate with today's visual culture. Additionally, he provides a list of platforms for graphic design and offers guidance on how to create images.

In chapter 3, "Preaching and Podcasting," the author describes the prevalence of podcasts in today's culture and provides an overview of the pros and cons of using them for preaching. Since podcasting is one-way communication, listeners may be easily distracted. Nevertheless, O'Lynn believes that podcasting is a valid venue to proclaim the gospel, help the audience encounter God, and form a community. In chapter 4, "Preaching and Livestreaming," O'Lynn raises similar concerns about livestreaming as with podcasting, since the latter is often the recorded version of the former. He also offers practical tips on how to livestream with minimal equipment, engage listeners effectively, and uphold copyright laws.

In chapter 5, "Preaching and Social Media," the author discusses potential dangers of social media, such as the spread of misinformation, doomscrolling, and control. However, O'Lynn argues that when used faithfully and responsibly, social media can be an effective tool to connect with current congregations and reach out to others. In chapter six, "Preaching and Platforms," O'Lynn expands the scope of ministry to suggest which platforms could be useful for the ministries of communication, administration, preaching, and pastoral care. Many readers will appreciate the list of apps and websites that the author tested in his teaching career and ministerial work.

In the final chapter, "Preaching and Plagiarism," O'Lynn shares his personal stories about the time another person stole his illustration from a sermon and a student preached his sermon word-for-word. While various perspectives exist on whether it is faithful or ethical to use

someone's illustration or sermon, O'Lynn encourages preachers to be authentic to themselves by bringing their "doubts, insecurities, and unanswered questions—into the pulpit as possible (44).

Technology is rapidly changing, developing, and improving to the point that any writing about it could quickly become outdated. As such, O'Lynn's critical discussion of how and why preachers should use technology for their sermons is not only timely but also commendable, especially in his practical suggestions of various platforms. However, since the book is rather short, some may wish that O'Lynn would expand more on critical questions, such as how to bridge the gap between online and offline individuals, how to invite the online audience to a deeper spiritual growth and discipleship, and how to measure the effectiveness of the use of technology for preaching. Is it based on the number of views or the theological depth of comments?

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) has recently been the center of conversation in the technology world, further questions may demand responses from homileticians regarding the intersection between preaching and AI. Therefore, O'Lynn's work lays the foundation for others to pay attention to the evolving role of technology as a medium for preaching to contemporary audiences.

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