

Robert Stephen Reid. *The Four Voices of Preaching: Communicating Faith in a Connected World*. Pasco, WA: Integratio, 2024. 248 pages. \$28.

The Four Voices of Preaching: Communicating Faith in a Connected World is a follow-up to Robert Reid's previous work, *The Four Voices of Preaching: Connecting Purpose and Identity behind the Pulpit*. The earlier work was explicitly designed for preachers in a church context. In this new book, Reid looks to expand the idea of homiletics beyond traditional settings, stating, "even as I was writing the first edition, it was already clear that new online ministries of podcasting, blogging, vlogging, and webinars were developing followers" (xix). This means that not just preaching but all faith communication needed to be considered in a new light.

This particular work seeks to help the reader understand their voice not in terms of diction or elocution, but regarding that which drives the preacher. For Reid, every preacher comes to the sermon with what he calls "hidden determinants" that guide the preacher to their purpose in preaching (9). These different aspects of faith consciousness and social circumstances lead to each voice seeking a different response from the listener.

Reid provides a matrix that showcases cultural responses in conjunction with the expected reaction of the listener to measure the preacher's hidden determinants. Reid walks through different social and political situations throughout the history of the United States, from the country's founding to the present day. Reid shows how a distinct voice in preaching responded to each era in the country's history. Each new voice created a tradition that is still carried out to this day. The goal of the voices was to present the gospel in a way that would bring about a response.

Reid provides four categories for these voices: Testifying, Sage, Teaching, and Encouraging. Each voice is born from a combination of historical events and ideological shifts. Reid explains that each voice was a response to the social and political shifts in the United States throughout the nation's history. Because of new issues that have arisen over time, each voice needed to show the gospel in a way that made the people respond to the gospel message in distinct ways.

Reid states that this book seeks to be a map, albeit distorted, because it is hard to get all the details exactly right. However, in his description of the different voices and the situations that formed them, he looks at each voice seeking to tackle the problems of that specific period. In his description of the social and political events that formed each voice, Reid does not want to judge the morality of the situations but rather give an anthropological understanding of how each voice is formed. The book aims to help the preacher understand where they stand as far as their voice and cultivate the ability to employ other voices as needed.

The first two chapters lay the groundwork for the voices by giving the preacher an idea about how to apply the lesson to their preaching ministry. Chapters three through six provide history and examples of significant events that shaped each of the voices. Each chapter closes with a sermon from a preacher who uses that particular voice. The concluding appendices provide other resources to make the book more applicable to the reader.

The goal of this work is to help each preacher understand where they locate themselves within the matrix of voices that undergird their preaching. Whether a novice or an experienced preacher, readers will be able to identify their particular voice, have a clearer understanding of how that voice developed, and hone their voice to get the response they are seeking from their audience.

This book does what it sets out to do: it provides a guide for preachers and other faith communicators to understand what truly drives them and what response they seek from their audience. Reid provides practical aids to assist the preacher in further understanding where they are and how they can expand in their voice or even begin to work with other voices to develop their skills as a preacher. The book is practical and informational, helping preachers become aware of the silent ideas that are said aloud in their preaching.

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