Celebration & Experience In Preaching

Henry H. Mitchell

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Henry H. Mitchell’s great contribution to the study of preaching has been his insistence that the homiletical practices of the Black church are gifts to the whole church. Nowhere has he made this point more forcefully than in Celebration and Experience in Preaching. In this classic text he advocates a way of preaching that genuinely engages all aspects of the congregation’s attention, especially the ability to both understand and to feel the sermon’s message. In this revised edition Mitchell builds on this groundbreaking work by examining in greater depth the multiple ways in which we experience the preached word, by defining the different kinds of claim on the behavior of the hearer that biblical texts express, and by exploring various genres of sermon to discover the concrete manifestations of celebration and experience. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information
Paperback: 155 pages
Publisher: Abingdon Press (September 1, 1990)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0687047447
Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.3 x 0.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces
Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars Â– See all reviews (6 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,135,323 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1340 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Preaching #1367 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Administration #3316 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Christianity

Customer Reviews
Henry Mitchell provides 2 very important sermonic structural components that we must keep in mind when discussing Black preaching. First, he argues that celebration is the pervasive distinctive that Black preaching brings to the homiletic universe. Black preaching appeals to the emotive and seeks to reach the intuitive the place where we really live by celebrating the Gospel. The second component of the book is the genres of preaching. Mitchell gives us a way to look at how culture and Bible perspectives are brought together in a sermon. Many of these sermon types are simply variations on a narrative theme. The first genre is Narrative. Like any story there is protagonist,
setting, plot, conflict, and resolution. Then there is a celebration of the resolution. The character sketch is basically looking at one character and the group study is a narrative study that looks at a group. The dialogue type is to bring a real conversation from the scriptures into the pulpit. The Monologue and Testimony is a first person story. Then there are metaphors similes and analogues. Finally there is stream of consciousness where the preacher gets into the mindset of the scripture and follows it. To create a sermon, according to Mitchell, you must internalize and really live in the text to get the details out of it that you will need so the people will identify. Then you need a behavioral purpose. Then we kind of allow the scripture to make a body fall out. Then we close with a celebration of the Gospel. It is a good book that I would suggest all students of preaching purchase.

Of all the three books on preaching I had to buy for seminary, this is by far my favorite. Its academically written, yet so very interesting especially with the examples of sermon given. I totally enjoyed every single sermon written in the book. They were very inspirational, interesting and just plain awesome.

It was ok. Not sure why the author had to use so many big words to describe small things. Have you ever read a book that could have made much more sense spoken in simpler words? This is one of them. However there is good information so as it's been said before eat the fish and spit out the bones.

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