

Climax  
1 Cor. 16:1

"The first step toward preaching a good sermon is choosing a good text." However, you may have a good text and preach a poor sermon — Lots of things are involved.

The text selected today is a good one.

1. Because it compels attention. Some texts knock at the door so softly that we never take the trouble to rise and let them in. Some are like a foreign language — people go to sleep on them. (Two types of sleepers) a. Those that hold up the floor — b. Those in the church that hold down the floor.

you may welcome this text or resent it  
you may love it or hate it  
whatever

our attitude we will give it a hearing. I venture there is not one person here today that can gaze this text with listless indifference

So a text of this sort is a real advantage. To speak when nobody is listening is sheer futility.

2. In the second place it is a revealing text. It holds a mirror up before every hearer. In this mirror we can not fail to get a glimpse of our own faces.

(2)

when you have seen your face  
in this mirror it will tell you some  
thing of your own character.

I said it is a revealing text. It  
will tell you more about yourself  
than any fortune teller ever did.

If the text h-day antagonizes you  
if it stirs your indignation—

If you find yourself resentful—

THEN— you can know some thing is bot  
wrong with you.

On the other hand—

If you find it a source of joy—  
if it breathes upon you same like  
a breath of spring— if it sets the  
fields of your heart to the blossoming  
of beautiful flowers— it will in-  
dicate that you are facing in  
the right direction. If it makes  
your heart sing you already  
possess, in some degree at least,  
the mind of christ.

Let me say again, "this is a  
revealing text" It will divide  
this audience into two groups;  
a. Some will love it  
b. Some will slam the door in its face.

John was shut up on isle of  
Patmos— not by walls but by the  
sea— He came to hate the sea.

Some monks were trying to get back  
home— through desert and dangers  
They marched— at last ascended

③ The hill and cried out "The sea, the sea" it was over the sea they could reach home - 7. John it was a prison to break, it was the way home.

I know with this text some will find it an uninspiring text while others will find it a roadway upon which they can walk with eager feet to loving service.

How many of you have noticed that up to now I have not told you what this amazing text is?

Here it is: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, so do you" 1 Cor. 16:1

I am glad to think that many here have a text like this - one dealing with our financial obligations - some others might want to except -

Two brethren decided to go to church but got there too late for the collection - the church being full they inched down to the front seat - just as they were seated the pastor said, "Now we will receive our morning offering" there was no way of escape but for one to faint and the other carry out to fresh air - that was what happened -

(4)

notice the back ground for the text

Paul has just been leading us among the mountain peaks of his holy faith. In that range of peaks here is the Captivating language:

"I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures - and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures - now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
(1 Cor. 15: 1-20)

what a shocking let down we say what an anti-climax - But Paul did not look upon it as anti-climax but as the climax -

Having led us among the majestic peaks of faith he ends by saying (I use many paraphrases).

"now concerning the beneficent streams that flow from them into - now concerning the collection,

any fire that the gospel of giving can quench has but little heat in it - It is only fox fire.

Let us merely glance at some of the mt peaks:

1. Christ died for our sins.
2. Christ arose bringing immortality to light.

⑤

Paul proposes a few directions for giving.

1. Let every one of you
2. Let every one of you lay by him in store on the first day of the week.
3. Let every one of you lay by him in store on the first day of the week, as the Lord has prospered him.
4. Let every one give with cheer and joy, that in so doing he is making a safe investment.

Mulsa - Chappel - man broke - 70000 %  
Church - said this is all I have left.

