Sermons that Stand Up

This structure gives a form listeners can follow.



After studying theatrical flow in my comedy course, I now plan my sermons to have a set-up, conflict, conclusion, and a reprise that ends with three points:

- What? (a short review of the passage)
- So what? (the reason the passage is important)
- Now what? (making the passage applicable).

Here are the four dramatic elements and how I used them in crafting one particular sermon:

Title: How to Face Giants

Text: 1 Samuel 17:1-54

Theme: How do you handle a personal crisis?

deal with real problems, just like you and I do. It explores the options they had to consider, and the choices they had to make.

A. Your crisis may involve a dysfunctional family (vv. 28-30).

B. Your crisis requires you to know what you need (vv. 31-40).

C. Your crisis will test your faith (vv. 41-47).

3. Resolution

Tell how God helped the individual cope with or solve the conflict.

A. Your crisis may vindicate God's people (vv. 48-57).

4. Reprise

Review the key elements and explain how these can help the audience in their specific life situations-starting today.

What? God is building your character now as you are being faithful in the little things.

So what? Being a person after God's heart means living with passion for His reputation.

Now what? Be ready, you never know when God will say, "Here's a rock, go kill a giant!"

1. Set Up

Hook the audience's interest. Answer the question: "What in this text could possibly address issues I'm facing today?"

A. Everyone faces crises, and yours may be larger than life (vv.1-7).

B. Your crisis may exceed your resources (vv. 8-11).

C. Your crisis may not go away (vv. 12-27).

2. Conflict

Here you reveal the tension—usually, a dilemma that we can all relate to. In a sermon, it shows that Bible characters had to

