

Steps in your Exegesis of a Text for the Busy Expositor

1. Check several translations and, if you have the facility, read your passage in the original language.
2. Check for any significant textual variants. (Tip: Look at the Word Biblical Commentary that usually has a brief section that covers this area for each pericope.)
3. Check to see what comes both before and after your pericope so that you have a good grasp of the overall context of the passage that you plan to use as your text.
4. Now go to several good commentaries that cover your text. Look for articles in the secondary literature (noted in the commentaries) that may illuminate an interesting idea from your passage which may come up in your reading.
5. Write a short paragraph defining what you consider to be the major point of the unit.
6. Determine how this major point fits into the key theological thrust of biblical faith.
7. Write the sermon.