How to Do Expository Bible Teaching
(Part 3 of 9: Prepare Anyway)

Historic Faith Series on Expository Teaching

IX. What if No One is Asking You to Teach (No Opportunities)?

- *a.* My advice for aspiring teachers: Begin preparing now to be a teacher, and pray for opportunities. *Don't wait* for a church leader to ask you!
- *b.* How I started teaching the Old Testament.
  - *i.* Once, when our church had a Bible teaching series on the Old Testament, many brothers in the church were asked to teach individual lessons to the church, but I was not one of the ones asked!
    1. A sister who could not attend the Wednesday evening classes where this Old Testament series was being taught was disappointed that she would be missing this opportunity to learn more about the Old Testament.
    2. I offered to teach this sister, plus my wife Alison, at home at our dining room table, each Saturday morning over coffee.
    3. Even though preparing just to teach two people, I strove to do my very best. I worked very hard, gave it 100%, and wrote up detailed notes covering everything I taught them.
  - *ii.* At one point the lead minister in this church had told me directly, "I wouldn't let you do *anything* in this church, *not even walk my dog*!"
    1. However, just a few months after that conversation I was heading off to Albania as a teacher on a mission team (with the blessings of that minister, surprisingly)!
    2. While in Tirana, Albania, I ended up teaching the same Old Testament survey class that I had prepared for my wife and one other sister...
       - *a.* First, to the mission team (about 10 people)
       - *b.* Second, to church in Albania (about 50 people, almost all new converts)
       - *c.* Then, on weekends, travelling to other similar churches throughout Eastern Europe, who heard about this class and asked that I come to their countries to teach it also.

i. This included teaching churches in Austria, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania.

d. Upon returning to Boston a few years later, I was asked to teach the same material to a large group of university students in Boston, and in other cities in North America.

e. Since then I have taught the same lessons (further developed) posted on the internet. Who knows where this will end?

i. But it all started by teaching my wife and one other sister in my dining room, when no one at the time asked me to teach.

3. God wants the message of the kingdom to go out. Prepare for battle. Train with the focus and determination of someone who is competing to win the Olympics. (Spreading the message of the kingdom is so much more important than that!)

a. I believe God will open the doors when you are prepared and ready.

iii. Whenever you hear a poorly done sermon or lesson, *use it as an opportunity* to sharpen your own skills and convictions. Understand where the preacher went off the rails and how the faith should be better explained.

1. Don't be divisive in the church. Present your concerns respectfully to those who are teaching, if they are open to it.

2. Listening to sub-standard teaching can be a motivation to learn, to dig deeper and to be prepared to step up when the Lord gives you the opportunity.

3. We need thousands of great teachers, all over the world, in all languages.

a. If the churches in the West hit increasing persecution, we will need *even more teachers*, to teach in house church settings. The kingdom will not fail.