

**Preaching at the Crossroads:  
How the World—and our  
Preaching—is Changing**

*by David J. Lose*

Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013. 124 pp. \$19.00.  
ISBN978-0-8006-9973-4.

IS PREACHING BROKEN? The common answer to that question, especially among mainline Protestants with declining worship attendance, is “Yes.” However, this is not a new problem. Since the 1960’s, a great deal of ink has been spilled, innumerable conferences held, and seminary degree programs re-envisioned in

order to “fix” preaching. Narrative preaching, inductive preaching, engaging preaching, and conversational preaching have been proposed as fixes related to sermon content. Getting out of the pulpit, taking off the robe, using dialogue and other voices, and incorporating images and video are commonly proposed solutions related to the performance of preaching. For more than fifty years, these “fixes” have impacted preaching and congregations in helpful ways. Still, the sense remains that preaching is broken.

David J. Lose’s engaging and insightful book is designed to change the conversation about preaching. In *Preaching at the Crossroads*, he suggests that preaching is not a problem to be fixed, but a mystery to be embraced. Every time a preacher climbs into the pulpit, she is called to proclaim the good news of the gospel. However, the world and culture in which that proclamation happens is remarkably different today than it was even a generation ago. In perhaps the most concise and helpful way that I have encountered, Lose describes this new world through the tri-fold lens of postmodernity, secularism, and pluralism.

Though the Christian story no longer holds a privileged place in American culture, and believers encounter an overwhelming variety of sources from which to construct religious identity, Lose does not lament these realities. Instead, he suggests that the gospel might be proclaimed with renewed passion and influence precisely in this new, mysterious world. With careful analysis and practical suggestions, Lose speaks to both the theological and practical aspects of preaching in ways that inspire me. The fifth chapter, which relates a story about a family who had given up on church because it had ceased to be “meaningful,” and the manner in which this problem was resolved, is alone worth the price of the book.

*Preaching at the Crossroads* is an essential book for preachers, teachers, students—indeed, for all who proclaim the gospel today. I pray that you will read and hear Lose’s invitation to embrace the mystery of preaching in this age, knowing that Christ’s Spirit walks with us and before us always.

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