

He could recite that poem just as clearly, articulating as plainly that anybody on earth could have understood it. I said to him, Now everytime you speak somewhere before you do get off in a corner somewhere and say that verse. Then speak that way. He said, Oh (mumbo jumbo) would not bother doing that." He spoke well enough in class to pass the course. He became a teacher in a college where he'd give an elective and there would be five students who would think what he taught was the greatest thing they'd ever heard in this life! The other students by droves avoided his classes! In the end he was dropped and went to directing a motel out in the Southwest. There was great ability that could have accomplished much for the Lord utterly wasted because he refused to listen to the need of learning to speak.

If you are the best speaker in this room you can learn to speak twice as well if you will take to heart the need and work on it and take the extra instruction we have available for you here in Homiletics. If you think your work is all going to be writing and personal directing, etc. you will be surprised how of ten there will be situations where if you have the ability to present something clearly and plainly will make all the difference between success and failure.

So while this is a comparatively small part of our course and yet a very important part. I don't know of any seminary where you get as good homiletics as teaching as is available here, and I know of many, and some very outstanding ones where you won't get a fourth of the opportunities for learning to be a good speaker that you can get here. While it is a comparatively small part of our course, and it's not as important as learning truly to know God, yet we always have students who neglect this opportunity.

So I feel it is worth taking the time to advise each of you nobody else can learn to speak for you. But you can learn if you will take advise and learn to be an effective speaker, and what's the good of all the knowledge in the world if you can't get it across. Moses said, I can't speak, but Moses learned to speak. How much better to learn earlier. How much better to graduate able to present the Word of God in such a way that God will use it tremendously for his purposes.

After I graduated from college I went back for a Masters of Arts and then I went to BIOLA. The Bible Institute had a place on Main St. they called BIOLA Hall where they could preach to people who passed by. There were one or two very untrained, uneducated and as far as I could see not particularly bright students, who would stand there and as the crowds passed by would start to say things that did not seem to me to make any sense at all, and yet they had a big crowd waiting and a number would come forward to learn to know the Lord. I would speak and get a tenth as many people to stop and rarely somebody came forward to know the Lord.

There are individuals whom God uses in a tremendous way but they are the minority and even they with proper training I believe God would use them in a far more effective way if they didn't become conceited with the tremendous knowledge they thought they had as so many do unfortunately. So I urge you to learn to train in all the knowledge you will need to make your life count