

Translator's Note

Those who are familiar with the literature of preaching know the series of sermon volumes published over a period of years by a Scottish publisher under the title "The Scholar as Preacher." These volumes of sermons by such preachers as W. M. Macgregor, Theodor Zahn, A. E. Garvie, A. J. Gossip, James Moffat, and James S. Stewart still command the respect and warm appreciation of preachers who continue to wrestle with the task of proclaiming the Word in the words of our day.

I mention this because the phrase "scholar as preacher" leaps into my mind whenever I attempt to characterize the preaching of Helmut Thielicke. This combination of deep scholarly, Biblical, and theological mastery with strong, vividly colorful, pictorial utterance, eschewing the worn cliché and employing the stirring verb and the fascinating picture, the kind of speech that goes straight to the hearer's "personal center," no matter whether he be the "intellectual" or the so-called "common man"—this, both preachers and listeners agree, is what preaching must always strive to be. And the comments of professors of homiletics and preachers of all denominations, in reviews and in scores of letters

which have come to me from all over the country, bear out this judgment. Again and again the comment occurs: "This is great preaching!"

The following sermons and addresses, most of them presented over the radio and television, reflect in their varying length the time limits imposed by the circumstances of their delivery. They have been edited and arranged from manuscript materials put at the disposal of the translator by the author. Included are three sermons on parables which, for reasons beyond our control, were omitted from *The Waiting Father*, the volume of sermons on the parables of Jesus. It may be noted that the sequence of the sermons and meditations follows the general order of the church year. The following classification of chapters may be found helpful: Advent: 1, Christmas: 2-4, New Year: 5-6, Lent: 7-8, Easter: 9-10, Pentecost: 11, Trinitytide: 12-28. The collection has the distinction of being published in English before appearing in print in the author's native country.

I wish to express here my appreciation to Dr. Thielicke for the confidence he has been willing to repose in me in the task of editing and translating these materials.

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