

*The Preacher's
Portrait*

SOME NEW TESTAMENT
WORD STUDIES

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	vii
I A STEWARD	
The Preacher's Message and Authority	9
II A HERALD	
The Preacher's Proclamation and Appeal	29
III A WITNESS	
The Preacher's Experience and Humility	53
IV A FATHER	
The Preacher's Love and Gentleness	71
V A SERVANT	
The Preacher's Power and Motive	89

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INTRODUCTION

I HAVE been asked to take for these Payton lectures a homiletical subject, and I have chosen as my theme *The Preacher's Portrait—Some New Testament Word Studies*. I am afraid I shall disappoint those who are hoping that I shall talk about preaching 'techniques', about what the late Dr. W. E. Sangster of Westminster Central Hall has called *The Craft of the Sermon*, its construction and illustration. Nor shall I be very directly concerned with the problems of 'communication'. I do not doubt that there are methods of preaching which need to be learned, nor that communication is a vitally important subject in our day, when the gulf between the Church and the secular world is already so disastrously wide that few bridges are left by which the two remain in contact.

But my concern is, I submit, even more basic than these things. I propose that we should take a fresh look at some of the words employed in the New Testament to describe the preacher and his task. We need to gain in the Church today a clearer view of God's revealed ideal for the preacher, what he is and how he is to do his work. So we shall be considering his message and his authority, the character of the proclamation he is called to make, the vital necessity of his own experience of the gospel, the nature of his motive, the source of his power, and the moral qualities which should characterize him, notably humility, gentleness and love. This, I suggest, is *the preacher's portrait*, a portrait painted by the hand of God Himself on the broad canvas of the New Testament.

I am hesitant to speak on this subject at all. I do not pose as an expert. I am far from it. I have only begun myself to learn the rudiments of preaching. But as God in His grace has called me to the ministry of the Word, I am deeply anxious to conform my ministry to the perfect pattern He has given us in the same Word.