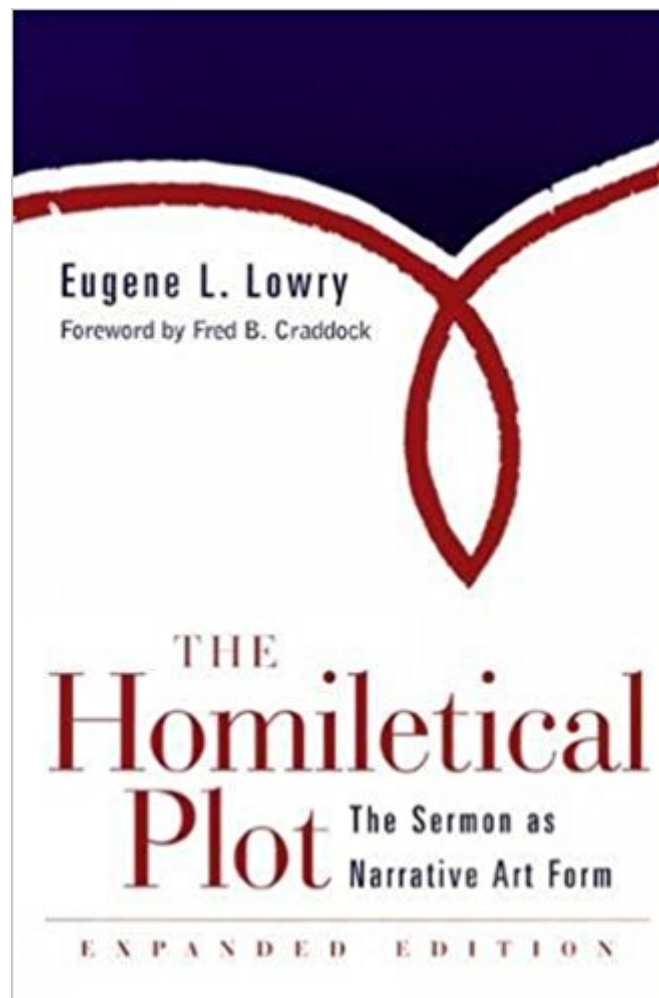




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# The Homiletical Plot, Expanded Edition: The Sermon As Narrative Art Form



## Synopsis

Now in reissue with a new foreword by Fred B. Craddock and afterword by the author, Eugene L. Lowry, *The Homiletical Plot*, Expanded Edition follows in the same solid tradition of its predecessor. Upon its release, *The Homiletical Plot* quickly became a pivotal work on the art of preaching. Instead of comments on a biblical passage, Lowry suggested that the sermon follow a narrative form that moves from beginning to end, as with the plot of a story. This expanded edition continues to be an excellent teaching resource and learning tool for all preachers from introductory students to seasoned clergy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eugene L. Lowry is William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching Emeritus at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri.

Love this book and highly recommend it. It was required for a Homeletics class, but I've already re-read it and given a copy to friend. It's more than just a pattern for preaching. It's a powerful plan for conveying a message that works in many settings. Once you read past Lowry's basic pattern, he provides strategies for motivating a congregation to action that are not just applicable from the pulpit but in many areas of church life.

This book affirmed a lot of my views with homiletics. Preachers need to tell the gospel story in a way to that engages both the church and the unchurched.

This book is one of the best preaching book available. The book is short and extremely practical. Lowry does not engage in issues of exegesis or homiletics. He does however, present a simple, compelling, and powerful framework to communicating the message of the gospel.

Very good presentation on Homiletic presentation. It can be challenging at points, and yet so distinctly simple in its intent. I recommend this book for the serious theology student and veteran minister wanting to broaden their horizons.

One if the best books that I have in my library on this subject. The nuggets that Lowry drops are insightful and helps me in effectively capturing main ideas for delivery of my sermon in a more challenging and relevant way. This is a must read for the minister of the word of God.

Great tool for first time ministers and seminary students. This is a good book to place in your toolkit of resources.

Eugene Lowry says that each sermon ought to begin with the human predicament, then it should be diagnosed, then the sermon idea should come as it intersects with the gospel answer. Lowry believes that the sermon will best hold the attention of the hearer if you proceed inductively and do not resolve the tension until the Weee!!! and the Yeah!!!! stages. He compares the sermon to a Columbo episode where you know who dunnit, but you are wondering how in the world Columbo is going to figure it out. In the same way, we know that the gospel is the answer to man's problems, but we don't know exactly how and in what way it is the answer to a particular problem. He also discusses how the movie High Noon holds the viewer in tension until the end, and he wants preachers to follow suit. Giving away your proposition at the start of a sermon is like giving away the punchline of a joke before you tell the joke! Lowry takes us through the five stages of the Homiletical plot and makes a compelling case why we ought to make our sermons compelling. He is realistic, he knows that preachers cannot weave a thriller every Sunday, but he does give us the way in which we can plot out the sermon in a way which will intersect with the lives of our listeners. I agree that this is a valuable way to preach, and looking back on my old sermons, I have been inductive and have begun with the issues in people's lives about 95% of the time. Yet it should also

be stated that there are times and places and passages where the deductive method can be effective. Perhaps you can begin with the sermonic idea and then make it your goal to explain how this idea can be applied to our lives. I can certainly see parts of James and 1 John being preached deductively. But this is a very helpful primer on preaching as a narrative art form. Recommended.

Cleary, Mr. Lowry has written a book that will help all who read it. Detailed and easy to understand, this book will take my preaching to another level.

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