

Homiletics Theory: Examination on A. Berkeley Mickelsen:
Interpreting the Bible

Time: 1 hour

Following is an interesting discussion of certain students gathered in a Seminary lounge. Leader of the Group is "Student X", profound scholar for the moment. Surrounding him are his many friends and admirers (!). The discussion centers on things of academic meaning. As we enter the scene he is instructing some of his colleagues in the art of "exam-preparation". You are to read this account and then tell whether:

- 1) X has read the book
- 2) X has glanced at the book only slightly
- 3) X has probably never opened the book

But, when you have indicated which of the three is correct, you are to write the reasons and proof for your view. Your reasons and proof will indicate how well you have read the book. In judging "X" you are really judging yourself. So there!

Student X (sitting on table, feet on divan, wet coke bottle on varnished book stand) The problem with you fellows is you don't know how to get ready for these exams. You worry, sweat, and develop ulcers, and complain about your 80's. I play it cool, gentle, relax and walk off with my 85's.

Student A: (repreachfully) Yeah, you're a real brain, X. Only one man in a hundred has your I.Q. and the last one anyone really saw-- they grabbed him and put in a jar at Harvard.

X. Alright, Alright. Humorists flunk, too. When Taylor gets through with you tomorrow you'll feel like you're walking on your brain instead of your feet. But anybody who wants to make it well will listen to me.

Student B: (obviously a junior, naive, and trusting) I don't know about these fellows but I want to learn anything that will help. Tell me, X. If it sounds good, I'll make notes.

X. Oh, there's a boy who will have a big church some day! Scoffers beware while I bring this kid into camp. Now, what's the test on, again?

B. Mickelsen's book.

X. Is that one of the works used in Systematics?

A. (laughing) That's all he knows! Doesn't even know where the book is used. Ask him which side you open to read it!

B. Which side do you open.....

X. What!!! Cut it out!! I know what course the book is used for. But I have to test this kid out to see if he's ready to reap the fruits of my scholarship. What course did you say this was, sonny?

B. Homiletics Theory is what they call it.

X. Thought Dunzweiler taught that.

Student C. (Quiet, learned type) No, he has gone into medical practice. You didn't miss him?

X. Well, I kind of have to admit I don't go to chapel much anymore and so don't see these fellows as much as I'd like. I'm writing my third paper for Faucette, though. See him a good bit.