



Sermon Discussion Guide


Faith of Our Fathers: Athanasius

John 1:1,14; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; 1 John 2:15-17

Brandon Lauranzon, June 13 & 14, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read John 1:1,14; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; and 1 John 2:15-17. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Do you like history? Do you know anything about church history? Read Hebrews 13:7. Why do you think remembering, considering, and imitating believers from church history is important?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, "What was the sermon about on Sunday?" what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

ATHANASIUS – THE FATHER OF ORTHODOXY

- 3 What is orthodoxy? What two doctrines did Athanasius defend as orthodox? Can you explain them?

- 4 Why did Jesus have to be fully God and fully human? What is the difference between Jesus as our example and Jesus as our Savior? What was the point of the illustration about the chief and the man in the well?

ATHANASIUS – CONTRA MUNDUM

- 5 What does *contra mundum* mean? How did Athanasius stand *contra mundum*? What is hard about living *contra mundum*?
- 6 Brandon asked the question, “Where are we humbly and graciously, but yet firmly standing *contra mundum* for Biblical truth for the sake of the next generation?”
- 7 What does 2 Timothy 4:5 teach us about how we are to live in the world?
- 8 Discuss the following quote by G.K. Chesterton: “At least five times...the Faith has to all appearances gone to the dogs. In each of these five cases, it was the dog that died.”

ATHANASIUS – THE DESERT MONKS

- 9 What was it about the desert monks that attracted Athanasius? Discuss the following quote by Soren Kierkegaard: ““Verily there is that which is more contrary to Christianity, and to the very nature of Christianity, than any heresy and schism, more contrary than all heresies and all schisms combined, and that is to play Christianity.”
- 10 What was the point of the parable of the wild duck and the barnyard? What ultimately does the life of Athanasius teach us about God and faith?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?