Friends,

I wanted to thank you for listening to me at the Aulic last night. That was kind of you, and I want to offer a better answer to the questions that were related to evangelism. It nags at me a bit to not leave it where I did. So, just a few thoughts here, but only if you're interested and have the time.

I love the question about how to choose when to be direct and when to be indirect. My whole point is this: *asking that question simply means asking which portion of God's Word you will choose to offer the person.*

If someone is a skeptic and thinks you can live a life of transcendent meaning within a secular frame, and that person thinks they've heard it all when it comes to Christianity, I might begin with one of the most indirect portions of Scripture there is, the book of Ecclesiastes. That text is nothing if not utterly entangling.

If someone wants to believe that God cares for her but has trouble appropriating that truth, I might go to the Psalms and play with the imagery (e.g., "Whoever touches you, touches the apple of my eye.")

If someone associates Christianity with intolerance and graceless bigotry, I would do just what writer Timothy Keller does and open to the story of the Prodigal Son. (Better: *The Prodigal God*, because to be "prodigal" means to spend until you have nothing left...such is the giving of his Son).

You see what I mean? Perhaps the main implications of my study is simply this: I don't only think about how to share the doctrines and propositional truths we have carefully mined from the Scriptures. I can also share the Scriptures themselves in the stunning diversity of forms in which they come to us, and let the forms themselves also play on the mind and heart of the other.

In other words, the Author of Scripture has already perfectly blended indirect communication with clear teachings and with an unambiguous portrait of Christ. My study signals a running to the entire Word in both content and form.

And sometimes you can simply let the story be the story, and the song be the song. That's what I meant to say. Not sure why something so simple eluded me in the moment.

I'll be sending this to other people as I remember who attended. But this is also shareable on your part, for what it's worth. God bless you in these hectic days. It's all worth it!

His,

Prof. Paustian