

Dear Podcast Listeners,

I hope you can get some use out of these podcasts. The classes are not created for the podcast audience, so there will be weird moments, silence, muffled student voices, the occasional slurp of coffee. Use the podcasts on your own terms. Some of it will probably be of more use to you and work better as a podcast than other parts. I will put readings up here at the RBC site, and please feel free to track along with us. The syllabus and other documents are here as well.

This is the first time I've taught this class, and I don't consider myself an expert. I did have a half year to get ready and I've been reading and corresponding with colleagues to get myself up to speed. I have preached hundreds of sermons in my many different settings, and I love that part of my calling. I also have been teaching public speaking for many years, and although it's not the same thing, there is some overlap especially when it comes to delivery issues. One thing homiletics (the study of preaching) has in common with public speaking is the sense of potential.

I have often told my public speaking students that everyone can win. A bad speaker can get better and so can a good speaker. All it takes is the will to improve, and almost everyone can keep improving. There is no reason that any person at any age has to level off. This preaching class is for beginners, but it is also for that person who isn't satisfied with 'good enough' and senses that the calling of the preacher includes striving for excellence at it.

If you are listening to even just a few sessions, I'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to [email me](#), if you have any questions or think I can help in anyway.

Thanks,

Reuben Sairs