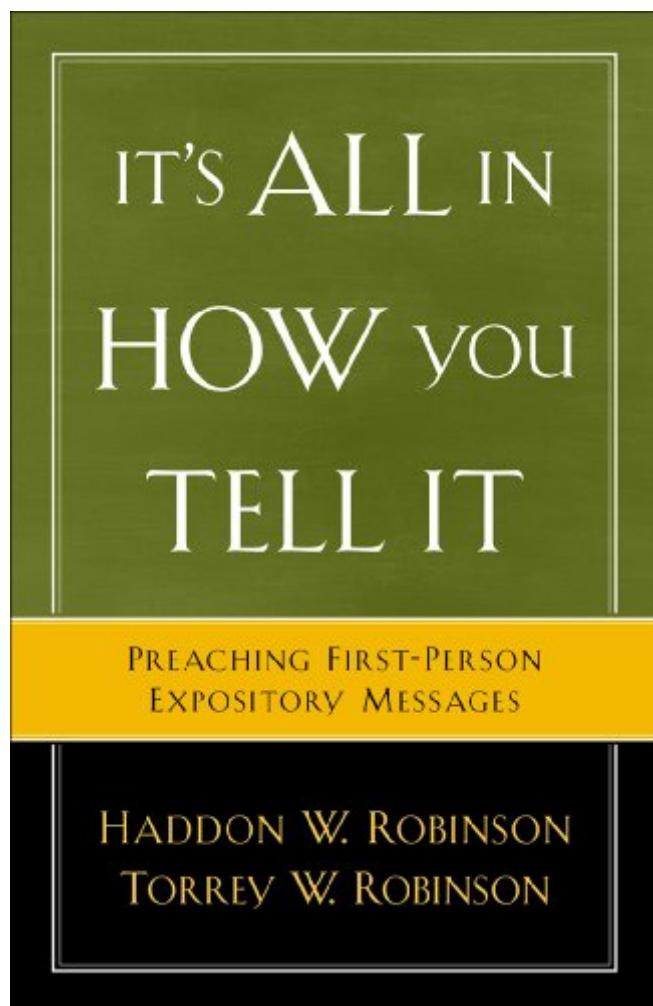


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# It's All In How You Tell It: Preaching First-Person Expository Messages



## **Synopsis**

Pastors are continually looking for resources to make their preaching more powerful and culturally relevant. Old-school models based on three-point outlines do not resonate with today's churchgoers, who are accustomed to media-driven modes of expression. *It's All in How You Tell It* provides the tools and insights necessary to help both veteran and novice preachers move from ineffective habits into adrenaline-pumping, dramatic sermon delivery. They will learn to preach by retelling a scriptural account from the vantage point of a biblical character-combining the power of drama with God's Word. Nationally known preaching expert Haddon W. Robinson and his son, Torrey, examine issues such as exegeting a text for a first-person approach, structuring a narrative sermon, determining how to portray biblical characters, and staging and delivering the sermon itself. With this book seminary and Bible college students have the opportunity to build foundations for engaging, story-filled preaching ministries. The end result will be more preachers who "love to tell the story" and more church members who are hungry to hear it.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

After reading Haddon and Torrey Robinson's "It's All in How You Tell It," I think that there is little to

no chance that I will ever use this method of preaching. In short, first-person expository messages involve the preacher assuming a historical/biblical character and telling that person's story from their perspective (possibly involving things like costumes, props, makeup, etc.) Quite simply, I think it would be a complete disaster for me to try to play a "character" in any situation in which the goals included something beyond comedy. I don't have the acting chops for it. Let me clarify that I think that this approach is perfectly legitimate in the right hands. But what they are talking about is a creative and artistic endeavor that not everyone can execute. This is analogous to suggesting that all preachers should not only write but also perform their own spiritual songs because we know that people learn well when information is transmitted through music. Yikes, what a frightening thought!! But somehow, we assume that drama is the artistic form that everyone can do well. I've seen enough absurdly bad church drama to be quite apprehensive to open the flood-gates of first-person expository messages. Though the appendices at the end (7 sample first-person expository messages) are supposed to offer compelling examples of this technique, they instead left me even more wary of trying it. Most of those messages seemed exactly like the poorly written stuff that we need to avoid. Just as much with the delivery, the writing of these sorts of messages has the potential to be very powerful, but only for folks who are gifted in that way.

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