THE BIBLE, SERMONS AND GOD'S WORD

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Category: Christian Life

Has it ever happened to you that you heard something that was extremely familiar and yet all of a sudden you heard it in a new way and started to ask questions about it? Something like that happened to me in church yesterday. The man leading the service said something short and simple - I'm sure I've heard something similar many times over - but this time I found myself sitting up in my seat and questioning the way we tend to use language in my church tradition. The simple phrase was (not an exact quote).

> *Now X will read the passage for today and then the minister will come and bring God's word to us.*

This isn't a dig against the chap who said this - he was just using language the way we do from my background. But, which bit is God's word - the inspired words of Scripture or the interpretation and application of those words through a sermon. I realise that this is a huge can of worms and the use of the term the Word of God can involve the theology of the incarnation, the doctrine of Scripture and our view on preaching and reading. I acknowledge all of that, but somewhere in there, I have a lurking fear that I have spent much of my life valuing sermons more than the Scripture they are expounding.

Does this strike a chord with anyone else, or am I just strange?