

What is a Sermon?

Sermons are usually, but not always, delivered in a house of worship, most of which have a [pulpit or ambo](#), an elevated architectural feature. A sermon is also known as a [homily](#) within the Catholic Church. The word "sermon" comes from a [Middle English](#) word which was derived from an [Old French](#) term, which in turn came from the [Latin](#) word *sermō*; ("discourse"). The word can mean "conversation", which could mean that early sermons were delivered in the form of question and answer, and that only later did it come to mean a monologue. In contrast to this, is the examples from the Bible, where sermons are speeches without interlocution: Moses's sermon in Deuteronomy 1-33; Jesus's sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-7; Peter's sermon after Pentecost in Acts 2.

In modern language, the word "sermon" can also be used [pejoratively](#) in secular terms to describe a lengthy or tedious speech delivered with great passion, by any person, to an uninterested audience. A **sermonette** is a short sermon (usually associated with television broadcasting, as stations would present a sermonette before [signing off](#) for the night).