

Sermon series on the book of Acts

Jacob Haasnoot, 2017 (context: International Church in Kampala, Uganda)

| Date | Text | Topic | Focus & questions to consider |
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| 1 | Acts 2:42-47 | The challenge of the first church | (We are saving Pentecost for later) A beautiful and also challenging picture of the first church. With everything in Acts the question is: is this just an <i>example</i> for us or is it a <i>model</i> ? Main question: how do we 'translate' this in our church now? Don't skip the challenge of verses 44-45. |
| 2 | Acts 5:1-10 | Giving everything to God | A very challenging story. Why was God punishing them so severely? Are you not allowed to have personal possessions as a Christian? How can we give everything to God? What are the things that we rather keep for ourselves? |
| 3 | Acts 8:9-25 | Beware of a fake Gospel | Simon seemed to have accepted the Good News but it turns out he is more interested in making money out of it. In every time & context we find 'fake/false gospels' and we need to be aware. In our city 'Prosperity Gospel' is popular. Why is it so popular? In the West we often hear a 'Feel-good Gospel'. In both cases, the Cross of Christ is not important anymore and in both cases it is focused on people's needs and wants. We always need to go back to the apostles' teaching in the NT. |
| 4 | Acts 8:26-40 | The Gospel goes African | Great story with many insights. Philip left the revival in Samaria to find this <i>one</i> person on the road back to Africa. God is interested in you and me. Philip explained Scripture to the Ethiopian and is taken away after the baptism. It is God's work! According to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church this is the beginning of the Gospel in Africa. Question: How can we be a Philip to people around us? |
| 5 | Acts 9:36-43 | What is our witness? | Beautiful story of a female disciple of Jesus. She was always doing good and helping the poor. What a testimony. Peter does a miracle and Tabitha comes back to life. Many people believed in the Lord (= reason for miracles). Question to us: How can we be a Dorcas, helping others and bringing people to Christ? |
| 6 Pente- cost | Acts 2:1-13 & 10:44-46 | The Gospel for everyone! | The Day of Pentecost tells us about the birth of the Church. Everyone who believes is included. It is a gospel for the whole world! How inclusive are we in our church? How can we celebrate our 'unity indiversity' better? We find the ultimate vision in Rev. 7:9. |
| 7 | Acts 15:1-21 | How to solve disagreements in the Church? | Only use the issue whether the law of Moses applies to the gentiles. But this stands for many other conflicts that happen in churches. Explain the context and focus especially on how the conflict got solved. What are the principles that we can apply today? This article is helpful: http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/200502/200502_062_acts.cfm |
| 8 | Acts 17:16-34 | The Gospel in a world full of opinions | Famous chapter of Paul in Athens. How does Paul deal with the philosophies of his time? What approach does he take? How do we discern what is the truth? Paul's message results in 2 different responses (verse 32). How do young people in our time with so many opinions (internet, media) stay on track? |
| 9 | Acts 20:17-38 | Finish the race! | Paul is getting closer to Rome and to the end of his life. He says farewell to the church in Ephesus. What can we learn from the apostle Paul on not giving up in faith? What are the wise lessons that he gives us? Are they also valid for us today? |

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| 10 | Acts 21:17-26 | To compromise or to not compromise? | Paul seems to make a compromise here to keep the Jewish group happy. Was that a clever move? Basis question: When do we compromise and when don't we? |
| 11 | Acts 27:13-26 | God is in control | Paul is on a boat in a big storm but they survive (although it will end in a shipwreck). Paul has faith in God that He will protect them. What storms do we face in life? Do we trust that God is at our side in the midst of it? |

Overview book of Acts:

- Peter & church in Jerusalem (1-7)
- Church in Judea & Samaria (8-12)
- Paul & Gentile church (13-20)
- Paul's trials & voyage to Rome (21-28)