



**Platte
Christian Reformed Church**

January 2019

Reflections on Preaching the Book of Acts

Dear Platte CRC,

One of my own personal convictions is that the most effective method of preaching is what is called ‘expositional preaching.’ In individual sermons, this means that I try to cover a portion of Scripture and simply unpack, or ‘set forth,’ what is there. The point of the text controls the point of my sermon. Over a length of time, this means I often work in ‘series’ – going through sections of the Bible (typically books). You can, perhaps, think of our word ‘exhibition,’ or ‘exhibit.’ If you go to a fair, you might go to the exhibition hall, where different vendors are ‘showing off’ their product. My goal is to ‘show off’ what is in the Bible.

Maybe you aren’t really sure what other options there are. I could preach by themes. For example, wanting to preach on generosity, and so then finding a text on that topic. In January and February, I’m preaching from themes that you gave me. From March through May, we’re commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the Canons of Dort, our statement on how God saves people, by walking through its themes. Another method of preaching is lectionary preaching, where a pastor follows a church calendar with all of the different texts laid out of the course of the year.

I’m convinced the primary diet of preaching ought to be expositional. Pastors can tend to play favorites with themes, and so it is best to have the texts of Scripture ‘set the agenda.’ This is why during my time here we as a church have walked through Ruth (during my internship), Ephesians, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, and now Acts. Beginning around June, we will open up Daniel together. I have put up different options to the elders at different times, and these are the books they have chosen.

Cont’d on back

My prayer is that you benefited from hearing Acts even just a fraction of the amount that I benefitted from preaching Acts. By hearing the entire book’s message, I hope you’ve seen the portrait that Luke, the human author, was trying to paint of Christ’s continuing mission after ascension and into today. Of a living, active God, working through His Holy Spirit and Word to lay the foundations of the church of which we are a part today. Of faithful, courageous Apostles, seeing how Christ fulfills the Old Testament promises to the Jews and the salvation for the Gentiles. Of ‘ordinary’ people like you and moving from death to life because of hearing the gospel.

I hope the divine author, God Himself, has impressed this part of His Word on our hearts in order to inspire us to follow His mission for us – to know Christ, to be like Christ and to share Christ. Acts is a tremendous book. It was a joy to unpack, and I hope it was a joy for you to explore. The best part is that this is just one of 66 tremendous books, and yet all telling the one ‘old, old story’ that we all need to hear each week!

Sincerely,

Pastor Drew

FAMILY PRAYER NOTES

GENERAL PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

To Know Jesus:

- ◆ If you haven't ever read through the Bible, ask God for the faithfulness and endurance to do so in 2019.
- ◆ Pray that we would make good use of our church library and the cold weather – reading to the glory of God!
- ◆ Ask God to bless Pastor Drew as He prepares sermons during the coming year.

To Be Like Jesus:

- ◆ Pray for our kids as they return to school for another semester and for the parents and teachers who seek to raise them in Christ.
- ◆ Ask God to lead our nation and its leaders to truly value the inalienable right of life, especially for those unborn.
- ◆ Pray that as a church our actions in the community would validate our words.

To Share Jesus:

- ◆ Choose one person who does not know Jesus, and commit to pray for them each day in 2019.
- ◆ Pray for our classis as we explore church planting in West Sioux Falls and possibly Chamberlain.
- ◆ Think of two national or global ministries and pray for their witness each day this month.

Nursing Home Residents, Shut-ins and their Caretakers:

- ◆ Tony & Rozella Baan Hofman, Ted & Carol Bultsma, Kevin Burma, Gertie DeJong, Clair & Pearl Dyk, Marie Kok, Clarence Hunsucker, JoAnn Kuipers, Juna Meyerink, Ruth Pranger, Cheryl Reed, Evelyn Severson, Harriet Sprik, Leona Van Dusseldorp, Muriel Van Vuren, and Betty Van Zee

Those Mourning the Loss of:

- ◆ Cornie & Eleanor Lieuwen, Don Severson, Helen Phiefer, and Kenny Kuipers.

Missionaries:

- ⇒ Ben & Amy Meyer (CRWM– Mexico)
- ⇒ Victor & Lori Selemani (YWAM– Africa)
- ⇒ LaVeryl & Max Voss (Wycliffe– Papua New Guinea)
- ⇒ Calvin & Jessica Wunderink (TeachBeyond-Czech Republic)

Monthly Birthdays and Anniversaries

(to see church activities, please refer to our weekly bulletin, or to the online calendar at plattecrc.org for the most up-to-date information)

January Birthdays:

- 5: Sonya Hansum
- 6: Vic Bultsma
- 7: Evelyn Severson
- 7: Kristi Pheifer
- 7: Wendell Kuipers
- 8: Caleb Veurink
- 9: Tony Hansum
- 13: Darrell Kuipers†
- 15: Pastor Ben Meyer (Missionary)
- 18: Curt Pheifer
- 19: Ken Lieuwen
- 19: Kris Sybesma
- 20: Amy Van Zee
- 23: Jevin Meyerink
- 28: Elroy Kaemingk
- 28: Grace Meyer (Missionary)
- 30: Clarence Boltjes

January Anniversaries:

- 1: Pastor Drew & Katie Hoekema

Please let the church office know if there are any birthdays or anniversaries that we've missed! Call 337-3572, or email: plattecrc@gmail.com