

Full of Grace & Power: Exalting Christ in Stephen's Sermon

God reveals. People resist. God redeems.

Acts 7:44–50

Acts 6:8–8:4

The box and the broom

The tent from the mountain (Acts 7:44)

Remember the charges

A tent named for what was inside it

Application #1: A witness does not embellish; a witness reports

Personalization #1: We simply tell the truth about what our God has done

Look who's doing all the verbs

Application #2: Worship is received, not invented

Personalization #2: We worship as God prescribes, not as we prefer

The wilderness word

Application #3: God's presence is covenantal, not architectural

Personalization #3: We kill the Sunday God-in-a-box idea

From a tent that moved to a house that didn't (Acts 7:45–48)

The tent goes in with Joshua ([verse 45](#))

David's ask ([verse 46](#))

Application #4: God's "no" sometimes makes room for something else

Personalization #4: We bring the request, and we release the result

Five words for Solomon ([verse 47](#))

Application #5: Scripture can speak by volume or lack of volume

Personalization #5: We zoom in and out when studying Scripture

Post-teaching questions for discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The Most High and things made by hands (verse 48)

Application #6: God does not waste a single syllable of faithful witness

Personalization #6: We rejoice that our words for Christ are not in vain

Being fair to the building

Application #7: Good gifts become idols when the gifts replace the Giver

Personalization #7: We worship the Lord, not the house of the Lord

Application #8: An institution that stops pointing to Christ has outlived its mission

Personalization #8a: We look for whatever functions as our temple

Personalization #8b: We hold our facilities with open hands

The throne, the question, and the Christ (Acts 7:49–50)**Stephen's Isaiah (verses 49–50)**

Application #9: The strongest argument is God's word

Personalization #9: We hand the microphone to Scripture

Application #10: The Maker cannot be housed by the made

Personalization #10: We rejoice that we serve an uncontainable God

Where Stephen stopped

Application #11: God looks at hearts, not buildings

Personalization #11: We cultivate an **Isaiah 66:2** posture

Application #12: Discipleship is temple maintenance

Personalization #12: We have temple maintenance to do

Application #13: God's independence results in God's availability

Personalization #13a: We are portable and build a faith that travels

Personalization #13b: We repent and we rejoice

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