

Sermon Notes

“What if the Christ is Missing from Your Story?”

Acts 6:8 – 7:60

November 18, 2018

c. Do you idolize anything the way the Jews idolized their interpretation of the Law and their Temple? Pray about that.

5. Read Acts 7:54-60.

a. According to Stephen, in what ways did the people resist the Holy Spirit (7:52-53)?

b. How did the hearers react to Stephen’s accusations (7:54)? When your conscience is pricked, how do you tend to react?

b. How did Stephen’s heavenly vision prepare him for what was to follow (7:55)? What is significant about the Son of Man’s posture (7:56)? What would make it possible for you to be calm and sure in the middle of extreme danger?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Tandala Medical Fund - Africa

Pray for doctors, nurses, and staff as they minister physically and spiritually to the patients at Tandala Hospital.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 11-18-18

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 26-28; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 196-197; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 75-84.

Getting Started:

1. In what ways are you just like your parents? In what ways are you different from your parents?

Digging Deeper:

2. Consider Stephen's character as you read Acts 6:8-15.
 - a. In addition to the introduction of Stephen in 6:3-6, what else do you learn about Stephen from this passage?
 - b. What qualities of Stephen would you like to see in your own life?
 - c. What did the expression on Stephen's face show about his relationship to God (6:15)? What character qualities help a person face conflict, opposition, or false accusations?
3. Stephen's speech is the longest recorded in Acts, yet it is likely that Stephen does not finish. Although Stephen

appears to set up a comparison between Joseph and Jesus, and Moses and Jesus, he never reaches a conclusion or fills out the comparison.

- a. As you read Acts 7:1-53, note any descriptions that are also applicable to Christ Jesus.
 - b. What pattern in Jewish history did Stephen trace through God's chosen deliverers (Joseph, 7:9-16; Moses, 7:17-39; and Jesus, 7:51-52)? What was similar about these men and their experiences with the Jews (see 7:9-10, 25-29, 35-39, 51-52)?
4. Stephen is accused of speaking against the temple (6:13-14).
 - a. The Jews thought their temple in the Holy City was *the* holiest place on earth, the center of God's dealings with His people. How did Stephen's account of Israel's history subtly explode that myth? (See 7:2, 9, 30-34, 36, 38.)
 - b. In both the Law of Moses (7:39-41) and the Prophets (7:42-43), the Jews were condemned for worshiping other gods in man-made idols (7:41). How was this fact relevant to the way the Jews treated the Temple (7:48)? What did Stephen imply was wrong with the Jews' attitude toward the Temple (7:48-50)?