

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 6:8-7:60 - Facing Death with Eternal Hope - 11.24.2024

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. How do Stephen's actions correlate with the outcome as recorded in Acts 6:8-7:60?
How is God's faithfulness to Stephen on display in this situation (the first martyrdom in Christendom)?
Have you ever found yourself doing what you knew God had called you to do but felt like things weren't panning out for you?
What happened, and how did you navigate that situation (& what did you learn through it)?
What Scriptures can specifically encourage us in times like that, and how do we maintain an eternal perspective?
3. How do we see the love of this world leading people to sin in compounding manners (sin leading to more sin over and over)\?
How do people who value this world more than eternal life/truth impact societies in judicial and governmental settings?
**This can be seen throughout various kingdoms historically and contemporarily if we look for it.*
Have you seen people claiming to love truth but living lives in such a way that denies The Truth?
How about in your own life; are there times where you've claimed to stand for the truth but walked in falsehood?
Are there areas of your life now where this is happening that you need to confess & repent of to walk in the Truth again?
4. After seeing the clear boldness in Stephen in this passage, I shared John 11:25-26 for the benediction:
²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
How does this relate to Stephen's actions in Acts 7 & encourage us to be bold for Jesus in our lives even in the face of death?
God has graciously equipped us by the Holy Spirit & His Word for life and godliness; how can we take hold more fully?
How does Stephen reflect Jesus up until His very death; and how can we, too, live in this way (as God calls us to do)?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
Truth is irrelevant to those living for this life/world!
Hypocrites claim truth while walking in falsehood!
God's worship will not be limited by human ideas!
True worshipers of God worship in Spirit & truth!
Stephen's boldness is a result of the Holy Spirit!
Walking by the Spirit leads to boldness for Jesus!
Stephen is willing to die in this life for Christ's sake!
Life in Jesus gives eternal hope when facing death!