



Welcome
Family
&
Friends

Stephen, one of the seven, is
arrested! (Acts 6) – Part 2
(Studies on the Book of Acts)

Review of previous lesson:

- We saw how a dispute arose in the church that put at risk the unity of the church.
- We saw how the Apostles decided to handle the dispute.
- We discussed the qualities of the seven men chosen to deal with the dispute.
- We saw how the church continued to grow.

In this lesson:

- We will see how Stephen stood out among the seven.
- We will discuss how some the Jews became angry at the teaching of Stephen.
- We will discuss the arrest of Stephen.

Stephen is arrested!

(Acts 6:8 – 15)

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

Acts 6:8 (ESV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30 – 31 (ESV)

9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.

Acts 6:9 (ESV)

It is said that there were
480 synagogues in
Jerusalem.

10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

Acts 6:10 (ESV)

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:13 – 17 (ESV)

11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”

Acts 6:11 (ESV)

Blaspheme was punishment by death.

Leviticus 24:16

12 And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, 13 and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”

Acts 6:12 – 14 (ESV)

Two false charges are brought against Stephen:

- They claimed Stephen taught that Jesus would destroy the temple.
 - Matthew 26:59 – 61
 - John 2:18 – 22
 - Matthew 24:1 – 2
 - In AD 70 Rome destroyed the temple in Jerusalem.
- They claimed Stephen taught that Jesus abolished the Law.
 - Matthew 5:17 – 18
 - John 19:30
 - Galatians 3:24 – 27
 - Romans 10:4

15 And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 6:15 (ESV)

In our next study, we will go on to discuss the events of chapter 7.