

STORY

Stephen, God's Child Martyred - Acts 6:8-7:60

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I thank You for how You kept Stephen from feeling abandoned when he needed You most. I thank You for this example of the strength of heart You can give to one of Your own. If it pleases You to give me similar stresses, I trust You to give me what You gave Stephen to carry him through to glory. Bless my heart and mouth as I serve You today in my classroom. I need You every hour. Amen.

OUTER AIM

Stephen was condemned and executed for preaching Jesus-Savior, but Jesus came to his rescue.

INNER AIM

God gave Stephen enough love for even his enemies so that after he explained how God had given them a Savior (long sermon!) he was taken home to be with Jesus.

or:

The way our Lord Jesus cared for His people in Jerusalem seems self-defeating in that He let Stephen get killed early in life, but this was God's way of blessing Stephen—who was taken to heaven—and God's way of reaching out to other souls, because Christians who fled for their lives “went everywhere preaching the word.” (8:4)

VOCABULARY & BACKGROUND

Further study sources: Rupprecht, *Bible History References*, Vol. 2, 491-497; a good Bible dictionary such as the *Westminster Dictionary of the Bible*, or a Bible Handbook.

v. 8

- ▶ When the home congregation in Jerusalem grew in membership quickly, the pastors had to ask for help in some of their work--so the congregation agreed to help by electing seven assistants.
- ▶ One of them was Stephen, who was blessed with extraordinary faith, power, wisdom, and spirituality.

v. 9

- ▶ *Synagogue of the Freedmen* - one of the congregations in Jerusalem whose membership was made up of Jews from foreign countries: Their congregation's name tells us that they wanted to be identified as people not of the lower class, but as first-class citizens in the Roman world.
- ▶ These hostile people enjoyed the challenge of attacking Stephen's person, message, and success.

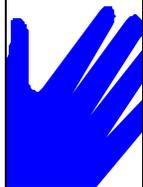
v. 9, 10

- ▶ Soon Stephen's sermons and miracle-working got the attention of others who were convinced that Jesus was a false prophet, and that Stephen was also.
- ▶ This mob of independent tough guys did not know God's Word as well as Stephen did, and since they were losing their debates, they decided to play dirty by hiring false witnesses to accuse Stephen of a number of scary sins:

v. 11, 12

- ▶ That he had bad-mouthed (blasphemed) Moses, God, and the “holy place” (Temple). On these charges they brought Stephen to trial before their ecclesiastical court.
- ▶ *elders and scribes* - the Jewish professional class of clergy and teachers of Scripture.
- ▶ *the council* - the supreme court of the Jewish church (the Sanhedrin, not a civil court), and testified that they had heard him say: a) Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this Temple, and b) Jesus shall change their church's customs and rituals.

v. 13



- ▶ *blasphemy* - the awful sin of bad-mouthing God's person or word or work.
- ▶ We note that in regard to point a), they had misunderstood--or chose to misrepresent--what Jesus had said about His own approaching death and resurrection in John 2:19-22. In regard to point b), they did not understand that Jesus had come to fulfill the Mosaic Law in the place of all Law-breakers. That made the ceremonial regulations--as prefiguring types of Himself-- no longer functional, either.

v.15

- ▶ The Holy Spirit here points up the contrast between Stephen and these evil-minded Jesus-haters, who now "saw his face as the face of an angel."
- ▶ We know little about the face of an angel, but we do know that angels have appeared in phosphorescent, radiant clothing (Luke 24:4), and that when Moses had received the Law from God, his face was shiny (Ex.34:35).
- ▶ This seems to be a God-given way for Stephen to get their full attention.
- ▶ Stephen certainly had the work of an angel (a messenger from God on high) cut out for him.

Ch.7:

- ▶ Stephen was on the witness stand long enough (fifty verses!) to make a good case that the charges against him were falsified.

vv. 2-8

- ▶ He makes the point that he serves (rather than blasphemes) the LORD God, who chose Abraham to carry forward His gracious plans for a special people...

vv. 9-18

- ▶ He makes the point that he reveres the God who preserved His people through His special servant Joseph.

vv. 20-40

- ▶ He makes the point that it is the Jewish nation that should be on trial, for when God appointed Moses as their "ruler and deliverer," he was rejected; and then the greater "ruler and deliverer" who had been with them in the wilderness was discarded in favor of heathen idols.

vv.44-50

- ▶ He makes the point that God was not as interested in the temple as they made Him out to be.
- ▶ At this point Stephen's sermon/testimony takes an abrupt turn.

v.51

- ▶ Why does Stephen here break out into a scathing denunciation of the council for resisting the Holy Ghost?
- ▶ We deduce that during his sermon they had been shaking their heads or showing their bad attitude in other ways...until Stephen could no longer ignore their response.
- ▶ Their attitude toward God and His messenger Stephen was so bad that....

v.51-55

- ▶ Now they had to be told that they are resisting God's own Holy Spirit, who yearns for their salvation.
- ▶ They were copying the bad example of their parents and forebears who had murdered God's preachers, and now they had even become guilty of doing the same to God's "Just One," the sinless Messiah Himself!
- ▶ Note: It was not Stephen who was guilty of a bad attitude toward God, Moses, and the Temple, but the Jewish leadership that was guilty--guilty of even more sin than all the other sins during all the centuries of Jewish history.

v.51

- ▶ *Stiff necked* is the opposite of bowing the head in humility; and *uncircumcised in heart and ears* means they were unconverted, undedicated to God.
- ▶ Note: To oppose God's messages brought by God's spokesmen IS to oppose the Holy Ghost, who uses the means of grace to get into sinful hearts and turn them around upside-down.

v.54

- ▶ This is not the response we would like to see, for it was seething anger that exploded in Stephen's face.

v.55

- ▶ How wonderful that God drew Stephen's attention away from this hellish scene of mad-dog snarling and snapping, and gave him a glimpse into the heavenly Jerusalem--actually letting him look into the sanctuary of God's throne-room--with Jesus standing at attention at the place of honor and privilege, ready and waiting for Stephen's arrival home.

v. 56

- ▶ Stephen couldn't help but blurt out in excited amazement and joyous surprise, ("LOOK!") and evidently expected the others also to see the wonderful vision that he saw.

v. 57

- ▶ They, of course, not having Jesus in their hearts, could not see Him in heaven either.
- ▶ Explore these thoughts with the class: Why did they holler and put their fingers into their ears and assault Stephen? Why were Stephen's message and conduct so frightening to them?

v. 58

- ▶ Even though they had no legal right to execute anyone, the Jews were so mad at Stephen that they took the law into their own hands.
- ▶ In the Old Testament times, God allowed this style of execution for blasphemers (Lev. 24:14-16).
- ▶ But in doing this to Stephen, they had become carbon copies of their evil forefathers (cf. v. 51-52).
- ▶ Note: Stephen is the central character here, of course, the hero of faith who may be included in the Hebrews 11:33-40 listing of such champions whom God supported.
- ▶ Which verse could be a reference to Stephen?
- ▶ Stephen died from brain concussions when his skull was smashed by the rocks they threw.
- ▶ Thus, vv.55-56 and 59-60 deserve our closest attention, for here we have an example of how a Christ-like heart reacts to the most horrendous mistreatment.
- ▶ True religion is to forgive from the heart--to want God to bless such evil men--to call upon our God to carry us through every obstacle when we are truly serving Him--to beseech the LORD to include such sins in/with/under His redemptive mercy and to keep on with His program of seeking lost souls, even in Jewry.
- ▶ Finally, true religion is to commit ourselves, body and soul and all things into His keeping--so that we can fall asleep in Jesus, Who has stood by us through everything else and will receive us before the throne of our Father, to introduce us there to the rest of the family of God.

STUDENT PRAYER

If you have perceptive and thoughtful students, they can be asked to compose prayers of their own for use by the class. If it is up to the teacher to provide one, it should be simple and short.

PRESENTATION

With Stephen's sermon included, this gets to be one of the longest New Testament stories in the series; so you should summarize. But for the Upper Level give the gist of his defense-strategy to show Stephen's concern that his listeners would review God's blessings on Israel, blessings which were often not appreciated. Many of our own sermons are meant to work the same way.

APPLICATIONS

1. In our society, are Christians protected by law from being attacked as Stephen was? Yet, since Satan and his crew do their dirty work anyhow, what might happen to a Christian in any of the following situations,... and how would YOU handle a bad response?
 - A Christian business-person makes the Savior known among the other office personnel.
 - Co-workers enjoy discussing a subject that God answers in the Bible.
 - A Christian delivery van driver shares Bible testimony with customers on his route.
 - A Christian student shows disapproval of the dirty talk and jokes of other students.
 - A Christian student has a quiet moment of prayer at the lunch-table.
 - A Christian is asked his opinion on socially-acceptable sins such as abortion, alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse, living together without marriage, etc.
2. How do you as a young Christian feel about your parents (or your pastor or teacher) when they want to talk with you about something you did that needs correcting?
3. If you get into trouble because of your own sinfulness, might you feel “persecuted”? What causes a person to become angry--such as the council members were--when you are scolded or disciplined? Explain:

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Acts 4:12 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

I Tim. 6:12a - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life....

Middle any of the above and...

Luke 12:8 - Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

Matt. 5:44 - But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

I Thess. 4:14 - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Upper any of the above and...

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Luke 2:29-32 - Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

II Tim. 4:18 - And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

HYMN CHOICES

“Am I a Soldier of the Cross” (TLH #445:1,4)

“Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might” (TLH #447:1,2,4)

“Stand up!--Stand Up for Jesus” (TLH #451:1,4)

Stephen

Acts 6-7



The Story

There were many Christians in the church at Jerusalem. When the Christians brought their money to the apostles to share with the needy, some of the needy were passed by. The apostles needed help so that they could continue to pray and to preach the Word of God to.

The apostles asked the Christians to choose seven good men who were wise and had the Spirit of God. These men would take care of the needy people in the church. Stephen was the name of one of these men. Another man chosen was Philip.

The seven men were brought before the apostles. The apostles prayed and laid their hands on the men to set them apart for the work of caring for the needy.

The Word of God spread, and the number of believers in Jerusalem grew a lot. Stephen looked after needy Christians and also preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to many people, including the Gentiles. Stephen preached with such power and did such wonders that people felt he was preaching the truth.

Some Jews who thought Gentiles should not hear about God, spoke against Stephen. These Jews could tell that Stephen had great wisdom. They could tell that the Holy Spirit had filled Stephen and that he spoke the truth.

These Jews hired men to be false witnesses and tell lies about Stephen. They made the people and their rulers excited and angry with Stephen. The people seized Stephen and brought him before the Jewish council.

The false witnesses said, "This man

speaks evil words against the Temple and God's Law. We heard him say that Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses gave us."

When Stephen stood up to answer the high priest and the council, everyone looked at him. They saw Stephen's face shine like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked, "Are these things so?"

Stephen began to speak of the great things God had done for the people of Israel. He reminded them that God called Abraham to leave his home and go into a new land. God had promised Abraham that He would give Abraham's descendants that land. (Abraham's descendants were called the people of Israel.)

Stephen now reminded these Jews and the Jewish council how God had given the Israelites great men like Joseph and Moses and the prophets. These men had told the people of Israel to believe in the promised Savior. Stephen showed the council how the Israelites had not been faithful to God, even after God blessed them. They had not listened to the prophets and had even killed many of them.

Stephen said, "You are like your fathers. You shut your ears to the Holy Spirit. Your fathers killed many of the prophets. When God sent His Son, Jesus, the promised Savior, you killed Him!"

These words of Stephen made the Jews very angry. They were so angry that they ground their teeth together. But

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked toward heaven and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But, the unbelieving Jews could not see Stephen's vision of heaven.

Stephen's enemies were so angry that they shouted at him. They plugged their ears and rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and threw stones at him until he was dead. Even as they threw stones at him, Stephen knelt down and prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

When he had said this, Stephen fell asleep in death, believing in Jesus, his Savior. Stephen was the first believer to be

killed for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Stephen's friends carried his body away and buried it. Many Christians were very sad.

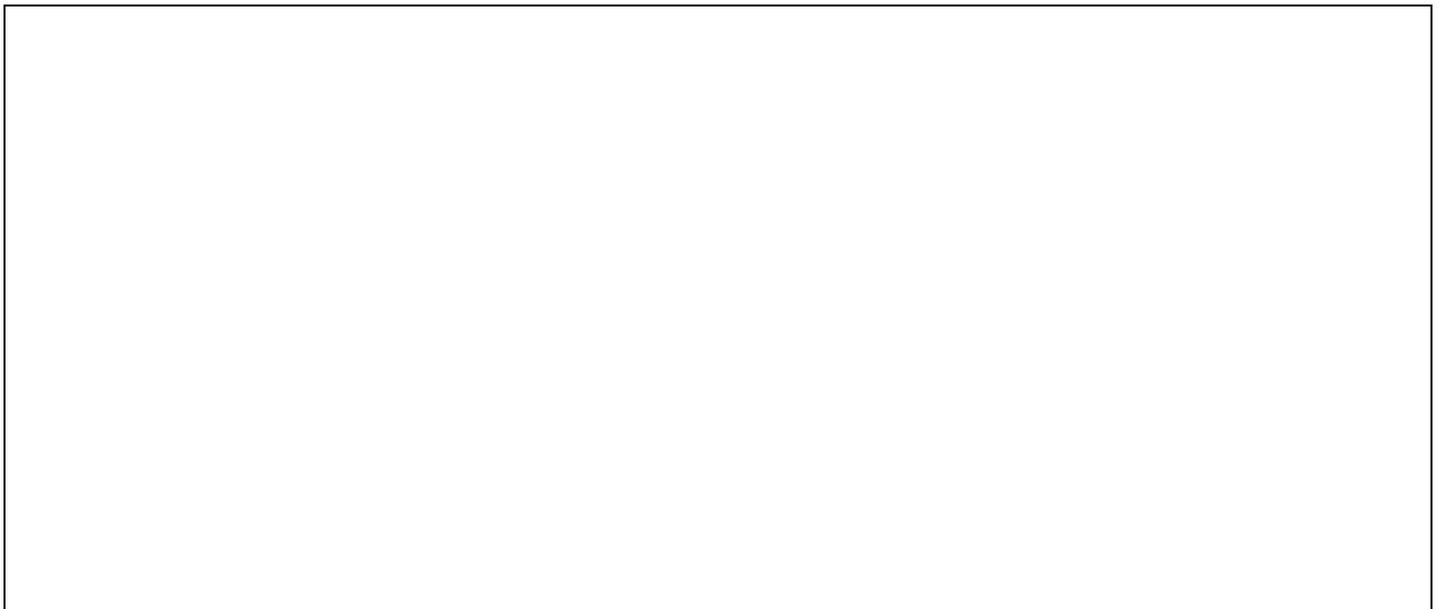
One of the enemies of Stephen was a young man whose name was Saul. When the false witnesses took off their loose outer garments so they could throw stones at Stephen, Saul held their garments. This young man had heard Stephen's speech and saw his shining face, but he thought it was good to put Stephen to death. He became an enemy of the Christians and began to put many of them into prison for their faith in Jesus. The Christian church seemed ready to end, but God had His plan.

Review

How was Stephen put to death?

Why was Stephen put to death?

Draw a picture of Stephen's vision of heaven.



Passages

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

The Fifth Commandment
You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13

Hymn

Hymn 445 v. 1

Am I a soldier of the Cross,
A follower of the Lamb,
And shall I fear to own His cause
Or blush to speak His name?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank you for giving us the good example of Stephen, a child of yours who did not deny You. He was willing to suffer and die because of his love for You and also his enemies. Help us when we have troubles to take them to You. Make us strong Christians so that we will be willing to die, if need be, rather than give up our faith. Help us to be loving Christians for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Stephen

Acts 6-7



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faithful to God, even after God blessed them. They had not listened to the prophets and had even killed many prophets.

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These words of Stephen made the Jews very angry. They were so angry that they ground their teeth together. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked toward heaven and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" The evil Jews could not see Stephen's vision of heaven.

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dead. Even as they threw stones at him, Stephen knelt down and prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

When he had said this, Stephen fell asleep in death, believing in Jesus his Savior. He was the first one to be killed for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Stephen's friends carried his body away and buried it. Many Christians were very sad.

One of the enemies of Stephen was a young man whose name was Saul. When the false witnesses took off their loose outer garments so they could throw stones at Stephen, Saul held their garments. This young man had heard Stephen's speech and saw his shining face, but he thought it was good to put Stephen to death. He became an enemy of the Christians and began to put many of them into prison for their faith in Jesus. The Christian church seemed ready to end, but God had His plan.

Activity One - Read each sentence. Circle the correct answers.

1. The name given to people who believed in Jesus Christ.

Jews Gentiles Christians Hebrews

2. The number of men chosen to help the apostles.

Three Five Seven Nine

3. The names of two of the men chosen to help.

Philip Stephen James Andrew

4. Some Jews said Stephen was doing this.

Lying Stealing Worshiping Idols Speaking evil words

5. Stephen was filled with this.

Lies Holy Spirit Jealousy Anger

6. The Israelites killed many of these.

Children Angels Prophets Altars

7. God tells us to listen to this to help our faith get stronger.

Music Radio Tapes His Word

8. If we believe in Jesus as our Savior when we die, we will go here.

Heaven Hell Ground Air

9. People who are not Jews are called this.

Hebrews Gentiles Christians Arabs

10. The man who held garments for the people stoning Stephen was ...

Judas John James Saul

Review

How did Stephen die?

Why did Stephen die?

A descendant of Abraham received a vision of heaven from God in a dream. Who was he? How was his vision of heaven different from Stephen's vision?

Draw a picture of Stephen's vision of heaven.

Passages

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.” 1 Timothy 6:12a

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt nor harm our neighbor’s body, but we should help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.

Hymn

Hymn 445 v. 1, 4

Am I a soldier of the Cross,
A follower of the Lamb,
And shall I fear to own His cause
Or blush to speak His name?

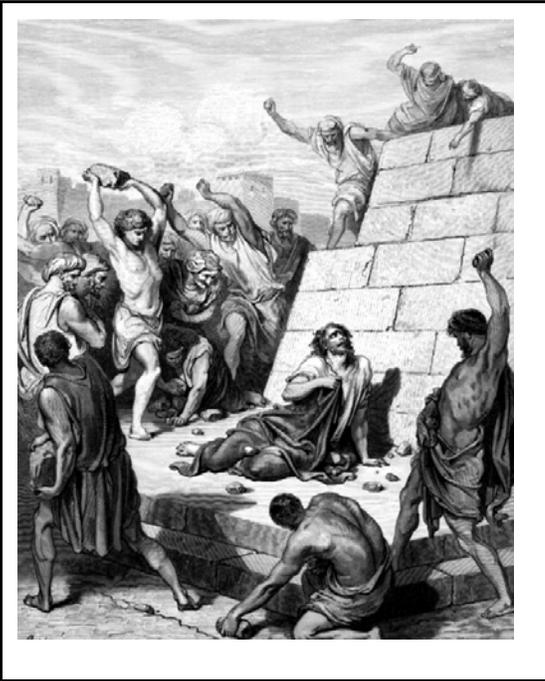
Sure I must fight if I would reign;
Increase my courage Lord!
I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,
Thank you for giving us a good example of Stephen, a child of yours who did not deny You. He was willing to suffer and die because of his love for You and also his enemies. Help us when we have troubles to take them to You. Make us strong Christians so that we would be willing to die, if need be, rather than give up our faith. Help us to be loving Christians for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Stephen

Acts 6-7



What does it take to be a disciple of Christ?

Could I become a disciple?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father; As we review Your word and study the early Christian church, guide us to a better understanding of your will. Help us to understand what it takes to be your disciple and strengthen our love so that we may be Your children for life. Through Jesus Christ Your Son and our Savior. Amen.

The Story - Acts 6-7

6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying..... 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against

Moses and God." 12 And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. 13 They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous 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 change the customs which Moses delivered to us." 15 And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.



7:1 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"

(From verse 2-50 Stephen delivers his defense before the high priest and the Jews. Using Scripture Stephen proves his defense namely ..that the Savior, Jesus, had come into the world, as promised. Stephen concludes his remarks by pointing to the Jews and telling them that they were ignoring the fulfillment of all of God's promises.)

51 "You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Recalling Details

1. Why was Stephen chosen by the disciples? (vs. 5, 8)
2. Who accused Stephen of blasphemy?
3. Which other person had been falsely accused of blasphemy and put to death?
4. When the Jewish Council looked at Stephen what happened to his face?
5. What did Stephen use as his defense?

6. What type of people did Stephen say the members of the Jewish Council were, and what did he mean by those words?
7. Why was Stephen's defense interrupted by members of the council?
8. What type of death sentence did Stephen receive for confessing Jesus Christ?
9. For what did Stephen ask of the Lord as he was being stoned?
10. For what else did Stephen ask?

Outer Aim

Stephen was condemned and executed for preaching Jesus, His Savior, but Jesus came to his rescue.

Discussion Questions

1. Satan still does not want the word of God to be taught in its truth and purity. What can you do to become strong in the true teachings of God's Word?
2. Just like the Jewish Council, many people today do not want to hear the truth. Stephen did not stop pointing out the true word of God to the members of the council. What should we do when people want to go their own way and refuse to hear the word of God?

3. Stephen made two remarkable requests of the Lord before he died. What were they?

4. No one knows when death will come. We will all die. This is a result of sin and a fact of life. What will we want to do now to prepare ourselves for death?

Inner Aim

Just as God strengthened His early church, He strengthens us today by reminding us that we are to look to Him ALWAYS.

Passages

Luke 12:8 Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

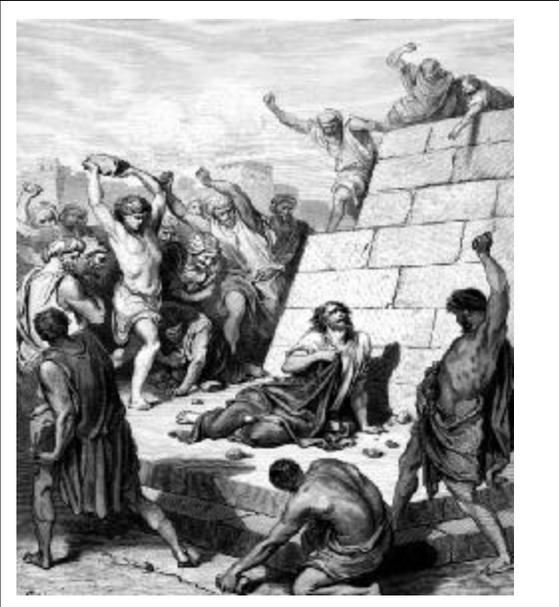
I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Hymn/Prayer

Read through all verses of Hymn 409 for the closing prayer.

Stephen

Acts 6-7



Why does the truth sometimes hurt?

Where should I turn when I feel that I have been wronged?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father: As we review Your word and study the early Christian church, guide us to a better understanding of Your will. Help us to understand what it takes to be Your disciple and strengthen our love so that we may be Your children for life. Through Jesus Christ Your Son and our Savior. Amen.

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Recalling Details

1. Why did the Jewish leaders continue to persecute the young Christian congregation?
2. Describe Stephen's character?
3. Through the wonders and miracles that the Lord allowed Stephen to perform, what happened?
4. What were the charges brought against Stephen?
5. Before what group of leaders was Stephen to defend himself?
6. What did Stephen use as his defense?
7. What did Stephen ask the leaders to do?
8. How did the Lord provide encouragement to Stephen while he was on trial?
9. What did the Jewish leaders do that showed that they could not listen to any more of the truth?
10. What last request did Stephen make of Jesus before he died?

Outer Aim

Through the example of His young Christian congregation the Lord strengthens us by reminding us that those who stand with Him will be saved no matter what man tries to do to them.

Discussion Questions

1. In our society, are Christians protected by law from being attacked as Stephen was? Since Satan and his crew do their dirty work anyhow, what might happen to a Christian in any of the following situations,....and how would YOU handle a bad response?
 - > A Christian student shows disapproval of the dirty talk and jokes of other students.
 - > A Christian student has a quiet moment of prayer at the lunch-table.
 - > A Christian is asked his opinion on socially-acceptable sins such as abortion, alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse, living together without marriage, etc.
 - > A Christian business-person makes the Savior known among the other office personnel.
 - > Co-workers enjoy discussing a subject that God answers in the Bible.
 - > A Christian delivery van driver shares Bible testimony with customers on his route.
2. How do you, as a young Christian, feel about your parents (or your pastor or teacher) talking with you about something you did that needs correcting?
3. If you get into trouble because of your own sinfulness, might you feel "persecuted"? What causes a person to become angry -- such as the council members were -- when you are scolded or disciplined?

Inner Aim

We should look to our Lord in everything we think, we do, and we say -- no matter the situation.

Passages

Luke 12:8 Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Luke 2:29-32 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Hymn/Prayer

Hymn 447 verses 1,2,4

Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race thro' God's good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is All in all to thee. Amen.