

Acts 6:5-15; 7:1-  
"Profile in Courage"

Tues Night  
1-30-2024  
John Goetsch  
①



## 1. Introduction

a. Context = Acts 6:1-8

- apostles ordain 7 deacons to  
see to needs of Christians

\* waiting on tables

- apostles main job is the Word  
of God & prayer (Acts 5:42, 6:2)

b. Early church a growing church

- they had a problem between  
Greek speaking & Aramaic speaking  
widows

c. Men with profile of courage.

- full of Holy Spirit

- full of wisdom

## 2. Sterling Resume

a. Stephen - full of Holy Spirit & faith

b. Stephen full of faith & power

- he did great wonders & signs

- increased disciples & priests converted

## 3. Serious Resistance

a. Greek speaking Jews disputed with  
Stephen

- they were not able resist

Stephen's wisdom when speaking

b. These resisting people accused  
Stephen of blasphemy

- they set up false witnesses

- they accused him of changing  
the Law of Moses

c. Stephen's message

- message comes from Holy  
Spirit about Jesus

- 3 d. Stephen's manner
  - he spoke the truth in love (2)
- e. Crowd brought Stephen in front of Sanhedran Council
- f. Stephen's manifestation
  - his face appeared like an angel
4. Scriptural Response (7:2-50)
  - a. History Course
    - Stephen gives review of Old Testament
    - he referred to & quoted Scripture
  - b. Honest correlation (7:51-53)
    - Stephen accused them of having stiff necked (proud) generation
    - he also said they always resisted the Holy Spirit
    - \* they the same as the ancestors
  - c. Hostile counteraction (7:54-55)
    - their heart was convicted
    - they ran at him & dragged him outside to stone him to death
    - they plugged up their ears
5. Standing Reception (7:55-56)
  - a. Notable moment
    - Stephen saw Jesus standing at right side of God's throne
  - b. Noble martyr (7:59)
    - Stephen called out to God
    - \* Lord Jesus receive my spirit.
6. Singular Responsibility
  - a. Witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of Saul (7:58)
    - Saul was ringleader in Stephen's death
  - b. Recognized accountability
    - Stephen became the Christian witness to Saul (even in death)
    - Saul consented to Stephen's death
  - c. Sensational rage (8:1-3)
    - Saul led great persecution against church

Tues Night  
1-30-2024

③

- 6c (cont)
- church scattered in all directions
- d. Continued rage (8:3)
- Saul dragged people into prison
  - But scattered church preached everywhere they went
  - Saul continued breathing threats & murder against the disciples (8:1)
- e. Converted rebel
- Saul converted on road to Damascus (9:4-9)
- f. Coming Revival
- Saul spent many days with Christians in Damascus (9:19)
  - Saul immediately preached the Christ is the Son of God (9:20-22)
  - \* Saul proved that Jesus is the Christ (the promised Messiah)