



#15 A Savior Worth Dying For Acts 6:8 – 8:4

I Peter 3:13-15 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 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...

STEPHEN'S STORY

- ❖ Stephen's ministry provokes opposition, leading to his arrest. 6:8-7:1
- ❖ On trial before the Sanhedrin, Stephen gives a masterful defense. 7:2-53
- ❖ Enraged, the council commences a lynching of Stephen, who ends up being the first Christian martyr. 7:54-60
- ❖ Intense persecution breaks out against the Church in Jerusalem, and the Christians scatter into the surrounding regions, where they continue proclaiming Jesus' Gospel. 8:1-4

1. STEPHEN'S CHARACTER

"full of the Spirit and wisdom" 6:3

"full of faith" 6:5

"full of the Holy Spirit" 6:5; 7:55

"full of grace and power" 6:8

"full of wisdom" 6:3, 10

2. STEPHEN'S COUNTENANCE

Acts 6:15 And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

3. STEPHEN'S COURAGE & COMMAND OF SCRIPTURE

4. STEPHEN'S CHRIST-LIKENESS

"It is not great talent that God blesses so much as great likeness to Jesus Christ" – Robert Murray McCheyne

5. STEPHEN'S CONTINUING LEGACY

Acts 8:1b-4 And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

THINK ABOUT IT...

- A. Stephen was **FEARLESS** in part because he hung out with people who had no fear.
- B. Stephen was full of God because he was full of **GOD'S WORD**.
- C. Stephen could let go of his life **FOR** Christ because he had already let go of his life **TO** Christ.
- D. Stephen is just one more illustration of how **WORTHY JESUS IS** to devote our whole life to.