

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Jerusalem

Lesson 7 Following in Jesus' Footsteps

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

Introduction: As we closed chapter 6 we saw the institution of Deacons by the Apostles to be "servants" in the early church. The chapter closed with an account zoomed in on one such man of God by the name of Stephen. As the word of God increased (**Acts 6:7**) the resistance increased (**Acts 6:9**). It is amazing however to note that "they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." (**Acts 6:10**) In this chapter we will look at this idea of following in Jesus' footsteps and see the cost involved with being his servant.

I. Stephen's Case (Lessons of Faith)

A. (V1-7) Abraham (The promise)

1. The accusations of the High Priest (6:13)
 - a. Speak blasphemous words against the temple
 - b. Speak blasphemous words against God's law
 - c. Jesus is here to destroy this place and the law
2. Notice Stephen's reaction was no reaction
 - a. **Matthew 5:11-13, 5:39-48**
 - b. **Salt in the eye**
3. Abraham's faith and God's faithfulness
 - a. **Gen 12:1-4**
 - b. **Gen 12:7**
 - c. **Gen 13:14-16**
 - d. **Gen 15:1-18**

B. (V9-17) Joseph (The preparation)

1. Joseph's faith and God's faithfulness
 - a. Joseph was sold V9 **Gen 37:4, 37:28**
 - b. Joseph was wrongly accused **Gen 38:20**
 - c. Joseph was in prison over 2 years **Gen 41:1**
 - d. Joseph is made ruler in Egypt **Gen 41:44**
 - e. Joseph's response **Gen 45:4-9**
 - i. Notice the phrase "God did send me", "And God Sent Me", "but God", "God hath made me"

C. (V18-50) Moses (The performance)

1. The children of Israel multiplied **Ex 1:9**
2. Moses was trained V22 **Ex 2:10-11**
3. Moses' heart was prepared V23,25

4. Moses turned aside to God V30-34
5. Moses brought the people out of Egypt V36
6. Moses gave them the Law and the Tabernacle V38, V44
7. Joshua brought them into the possession V45 **Josh 1:6, Josh 21:43**
8. The house of God V45-50

II. **Stephen's Message**

- A. **(V51)** Rejection of the Holy Ghost
- B. **(V52)** Rejection of the Prophets
 1. The prophets job was to announce the Just One
- C. **(V52)** Rejection of Jesus
- D. **(V53)** Rejection of the Law
 1. **Luke 12:43-48**
 2. "The more we know, the more we are accountable for."
- E. **(V54)** – The reaction of conviction results in turning to God or turning away
 1. "they were cut to the heart"
 2. "they gnashed on him with their teeth."

III. **Stephen's Reward**

- A. Heaven's vision
 1. God's glory
 2. Son of Man standing
- B. God's mercy
 1. Stephen's cry mirroring the Lord's
 2. Stephen's expression of complete faith
 3. Stephen's cry for their salvation
 4. Stephen's entrance into Heaven

"God's reward for us is Heaven's vision and His mercy toward us to conquer the trials of life."