
[SERMON NOTES]

_____ = a witness

Stephen's Panorama of the Old Testament (Acts 7:2-50)

- 3 _____ : Land.... Law/Covenant... Promise of God's Presence
- 3 _____ : Abraham... Patriarchs... Moses

Jesus broke the pattern of _____ saviors.

You can know the _____ things and still end in the _____ place. (Acts 7:51-60)

- **A Transformed Disciple:**

_____ Knowledge + _____ Change + _____ Accountability

Discipleship is about _____ like Jesus. (Acts 6:5,8; Galatians 2:20-21)

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

Have you ever gone to the carnival and walked through "the house of mirrors?" You have to watch every step or you might have the embarrassment of walking straight into your own reflection. In some of these places, they have different shapes of mirrors that change your image. Perhaps the mirror makes your torso incredibly long or short and wide, either way it gives us a glimpse of how our 'likeness' can change. In Acts chapter 7, we see Stephen on trial because of his faith. But as you study the life of Stephen, there is something that is clear: he was "like Christ." He lived out his faith, he was full of grace and the Spirit, and even as he faced death he mirrored the character of Christ. ***In the space below, reflect on your own life. What are the areas you do mirror Christ and what are the areas you need to work on to better reflect His character?***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

The majority of chapter 7 is Stephen's words directed at the Sanhedrin. He goes through the major movements throughout the Old Testament that make up Israel's history and points out a lot of where their ancestors missed the mark. To help your understanding of what Stephen is

addressing, ***read the following passages that are about these foundational biblical characters and then write out a brief summary about who these people were.***

-Abraham (Read Genesis 12 & 15)

-Joseph (Read Genesis 37 & 45)

-Moses (Read Exodus 2 & 3)

-Aaron (Read Exodus 32)

As mentioned above, Stephen set a great example of Christ-likeness. When we place our faith in Jesus we are making a commitment with our life. A relationship with Jesus demands action. We are to be “like Christ.” ***Read Galatians 2:20 and Matthew 7:24-29 and explain in your own words what it means to be like Christ.***

As we pursue growth in our faith, we can count on the fact that Satan will do anything and everything he can to prevent that growth from happening. Why? Because according to John 10:10 he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. We have all faced roadblocks or different challenges in our life. ***What do you see as the potential roadblocks in your own life to strive to be like Christ?***

Stephen was persecuted for his faith and became a martyr. As a church, we have said that it is highly unlikely that you will ever face persecution for your faith in our culture. That doesn't mean following Jesus is easy or without challenges, but persecution is something different. But there are people around the world who do face persecution for their faith. ***Take a moment and pause and pray for those people who are actively facing persecution.***

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible and READ (Reflect, Examine, Apply, Do).

Acts 7

James 2:14-25

1 John 2:3-11

Ephesians 5:1-2