

Home Group Questions

The week of 4/19/2020

Acts 7:1-60

THE FIRST!

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his survey of Acts as we studied Chapter 7 and Stephen's testimony before the Sanhedrin. Stephen becomes the first martyr of the Christian church as his testimony enrages the council and they stone Stephen to death.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. **Read Acts 7:1-53.** Stephen gives a wonderful walk through the history of the Old Testament. Below is a chart of the people he highlights. Discuss the sermon, why do you think Stephen went through such a detailed history of the nation of Israel to a Jewish audience who obviously knew the story? What was the point he was making (and why do you think the Jewish leaders listened to him give it?)? What do you think were the most offensive parts of the speech of Stephen (i.e. his comments about the temple) and why do you think they were offensive to the Jewish leaders?



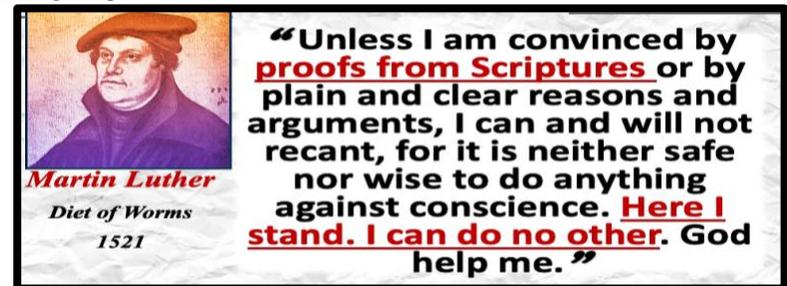
2. **Pastor Mel** shared three truths from this passage...talk about each one and how Stephen leaves an amazing legacy for believers to follow as millions of others will be persecuted for their faith in the centuries to come. Which of these truths challenges you the most in your life and which of these truths do you feel is the most difficult for you to live out in your walk with the Lord and why?

1. **Love the truth, stand by the truth, even when the world hates it.** Acts 7:1-54

2. **Live for eternity, value eternal things, even when the world misses it!** Acts 7:55-57; Hebrews 10:12

3. **Run well, finish strong, even when the world thinks they won.** Acts 7:58-60

3. **The testimony of Stephen is similar to that of another hero of the faith....Martin Luther (1521, Diet of Worms) who stood up against doctrines in the church that did not reflect the truths of Scripture. He was asked to recant at the threat of losing his life...and he said this below at the Diet of Worms.**



Discuss this example of dedication to the Lord and His Word. Pastor Mel also shared the testimony of Jim Elliot and the other 4 missionaries who gave their lives reaching out to the Auca Indians in Ecuador in 1956. Talk about other examples of faith that have challenged you like that of Stephen.

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray for the persecuted church around the world that faces the threat of imprisonment and even death every day. Pray for an end to the virus that is causing so much suffering around the world.