

The Book of Acts - Chapter 6.8—8.1
THE HIGH COST OF A BOLD MOVE
Dr. Larry Lamb – August 18, 2019

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

People who make **Bold Move** decisions are bound to do what’s right regardless of the opinions of the culture. Their lives are tethered to fulfilling something that may be unconventional, but their calling is too overwhelming to let go.

Acts 7.8 Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.

⇒What would you do if you were verbally assaulted? What would you do if you were intentionally lied about?

⇒What would you do if others instigated harm against you without any reservation of guilt?

Acts 6:12-14 This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. ¹³ The lying witnesses said, “This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. ¹⁴ We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

When people are filled with hate they will attack with irrational vengeance. Expect it.

Acts 7.1 Then the high priest asked Stephen, “Are these accusations true?”

Stephen didn’t defend himself, he didn’t talk about the injustice, or speak about the mob who aligned him by a lie.

Acts 7.59, 60 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”

Tertullian , Early Church Theologian

BOLD LIVING FOR CHRIST

1. Can often come with some levels of **RESENTMENT** from others.
2. Might come with such **INTENSE** scrutiny that it could lead to the loss of family, friends, ease, religious freedom, or life.

REF John 15.18,19

3. Means living a life of **FORGIVENESS** even over the vilest of offenses.

John 23:34 Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.

The third of the four measures in our church to know if we're advancing in maturity is: *Thankful for grace: Am I giving, forgiving, and grateful?*

4. Can mean an impactful **INFLUENCE** after death. Don't take your influence lightly. We might never see who our lives influence for Jesus this side of eternity, but be assured, there can be influence.

Acts 8.1 Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.

NEVER GIVE UP ON PEOPLE.

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner, and there is nothing that I can do to save myself. I confess my complete helplessness to forgive my own sin or to work my way to heaven. At this moment, I trust Christ alone as the One who bore my sin when He died on the cross. I believe that He did all that will ever be necessary for me to stand in Your holy presence. I thank You that Christ was raised from the dead as a guarantee of my resurrection. As best as I can, I now transfer my trust to Him. I am grateful that He has promised to receive me despite my many sins and failures. Father, I take You at Your word. I thank You that I can face death now that You are my Savior. Thank You for the assurance that You will walk with me through the deep valley. Thank You for hearing this prayer. In Jesus' Name. Amen.