



STEPHEN'S CRIME: PREACHING CHRIST

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8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. 10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. 11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12 And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, 13 and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." 15 And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. **(Acts 6:8-15 ESV)**

Driving Question:

What do We see in the life of a
faithful Witness of Christ?

1.) Christ-Like Character

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

2.) Christ-Centered Conversation

9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. 10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

The Complaints against Stephen

“We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”

“This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”

Stephen teaching what Jesus taught

“What sign do you show us for doing these things?” John tells us that “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ The Jews then said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?’ [And John explains that Jesus] was speaking about the temple of his body” (John 2:18-21).

3.) Christ-like Countenance

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

Pastoral Reflections:

- We have received the same message of Jesus
- We have received the same Spirit Stephen received