From Stones to Seeds
11/01/26- Pastor Zach
Acts 7:44- 8:2

Connect: Has there been a time where you have had to show courage? What that like for you? What happened in that situation?

Engage: Reread Acts 7: 44-8:2

What strikes you with this part of Scripture? What do you notice? What was Stephen known for besides his death?

How does Jesus make us courageous with making us hard.

Zach talked about 3 words that pop out in this passage of Scripture.

1. Courage – Jesus frees us to tell the truth with humility. Acts 6:11-14, 7:2-53
   a. Stephen has been accused of speaking against the temple and the law
   b. However, God has never been confined to the temple
      1. Do you have examples of that through out scripture?
      2. The temple is a gift, but God is not contained by it.
   c. The Law is good, but they have not kept it. 7:39-43 vs. 53. Wherelse have we seen the law broken?
   d. Zach made a statement "the gospel asks us to come into the light ourselves before we use it to examine everyone else." What do you think of that statement?
   e. They have rejected the deliverers God sent – Can you think of some of the prophets that were rejected?
   f. The Righteous One answers our unrighteousness. Vs. 52
      Some questions:
      Where am I relying on religious familiarity instead of trusting Jesus?
      Where has fear of losing approval kept me silent?
      Can I speak truth while remembering how much mercy I have received?
2. Presence – Jesus stands for us when others stand against us.
   a. The clouds lift and Stephen sees what is real. – Where have you had the clouds lift and seen the Lord?
   b. The earthly court does not have the final verdict. Daniel 7:13-14, Luke 22:69, 1 John 2:1 and Heb.7:25
   c. Our acceptance rests on Jesus. How do you feel hearing that?
   d. His presence does not always mean rescue. Whose approval has become too important? How have you mistaken unanswered prayer for God's absence?
3. Mercy – the grace that holds us can flow through us. Acts 7:59-60
   a. Stephen begins to sound like Jesus. Luke 23: 24,46
   b. Mercy grows from the mercy we have received. Where have you received mercy?
   c. Who for you is difficult to pray for? Who is God asking you to show mercy too?
   d. Jesus is still building His church. Acts 8:1-4,

Apply: Who do you need to speak truth to through the grace you have received? How would that look?
Where do you need to trust Jesus's presence in deeper way?
Where do you need to show mercy to someone who opposes you?
Is there a conversation to have, an outcome to release, or someone you need to begin to pray for? Remember you have the strength of the Holy Spirit with you!