

The Foundation of the Church: "Built on Sacrificial Witness"

Acts 6:8-8:3

July 20, 2025

Main Idea: The church is built on sacrificial witness.

I. Prelude: Stephen preaches powerfully (6:8-15)

II. The main event: Stephen's last sermon (7:1-53)

A. Stephen's central points

1. The presence of God is not bound by the temple.
2. God's presence was with his rejected deliverers.

B. Abraham (7:1-8)

C. Joseph (7:9-16)

D. Moses (7:17-43)

E. David/Solomon (7:44-50)

F. Jesus (7:51-53)

III. Fallout: Stephen is killed, and the church is persecuted (7:54-8:3)

LET'S GO DEEPER:

1. In Acts 6:8-15, Stephen is mischaracterized and slandered. Have you ever been falsely accused? How are you tempted to avoid this form of persecution?
2. In Acts 7, Stephen responds to false accusations by faithfully proclaiming Scripture. How does that help us know how to respond to push-back from the world? What steps can you take to grow in your knowledge of Biblical truth?
3. In Acts 7:54-60, what gives Stephen the courage to risk his life for Christ? How does that vision transform Stephen in his last moments?
4. In Acts 6:8-8:3, how can you see God accomplishing his purposes even through persecution? How does this give you hope that God is working through the opposition you face?