GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (April 14, 2024)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

Stephen has just one appearance in the Bible – but his impact is eternal. He is introduced in the book of Acts as a man "everyone trusts", "full of the Holy Spirit" and of "good sense", "brimming with God's grace and energy…doing wonderful things among the people."

The apostles needed help! They needed 'deacons' who could care for the people flocking by the thousands to their community of faith. Those chosen were humble, kind, caring, full of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Stephen was just such a man.

Your life too, like Stephen, can have an eternal impact for God. The way you serve and love others, the things of God you give testimony to, and the legacy of faith you leave behind all count for eternity in the Kingdom of God.

Stephen shows us not only how to live for Jesus but also how to die for Jesus. He is considered the First Christian Martyr.

The Eternal Value of One Life- Stephen (Acts 6:9-15,7:1-50,7:51-60) ESV

Read the following:

Acts 6:9-15

Consider and record the differences between Stephen's character and actions and the character and actions of the religious leaders?

Acts 7:1-50

This is a recitation of the history of both himself and those he was addressing. What do you remember of your history with God? Draw a timeline of your life highlighting the interaction between you and God. Share this with someone as a testimony.

Acts 7:51-60

Stephen incites a riot with his accusations and convictions that lead to his death. What did he receive in return for his boldness and truth? And who was standing by? What was the eternal value of his sacrificial death?

What do you think will be your Kingdom contribution that will outlive you?

Notes

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Thank God for the gift of His Holy Spirit. Ask God to speak to you, to provide wisdom, to guide you your decisions. Ask God to help you seek Him first. Ask God for the counsel of other Christians. God will speak to you by His Holy Spirit, through others, through the Bible, because He loves you.

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