

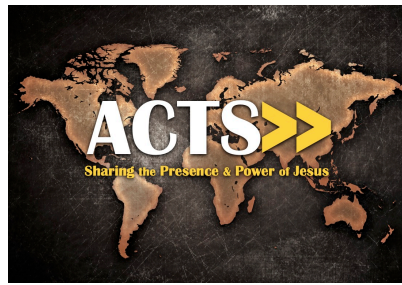
SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Stephen's Bold Witness

With Phil Harwood

July 13, 2025



Passage Context: Acts 6:8—7:60

Amos 5:21-24 “I hate all your show and pretense— the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won’t even notice all your choice peace offerings. Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

Isaiah 66:2b-4

Luke 23:46 Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.

Luke 23:34a Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

- In his death, Stephen was a witness for Jesus and he was a reflection of Jesus.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church” Tertullian – AD 197

- Stephen spoke with boldness the message God gave him to speak.
- Stephen was a witness for Jesus where he lived, worked, and played.

Big Idea: God's power strengthens us to remain faithful even in the worst moments.

Application:

- 1) Share God's message with the help of the Holy Spirit, no matter what the moment might mean.
- 2) This week, pray and ask God two things: Who would you like me to share your message with? Please empower me through your Holy Spirit to do it.
- 3) When opposition and challenge come as a result of sharing the Good News:
 - Entrust everything to Jesus.
 - Extend the grace of Jesus.



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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Stephen's Bold Witness
#12 of 22 - July 13, 2025

1. What is one story of a bold choice that required sacrifice that has touched you?
2. Read Acts 6:8-7:2 and Acts 7:51-60. What is the **Context** for these passages? Who is the writer and who is the recipient? What is the purpose for writing? What has happened prior to these passages?
3. **Observation:** What do you notice about this passage? What started the scene and how did Stephen respond?
4. What is the Meaning of this passage? Why do you think Luke included this in his narrative?
5. Why do you think Stephen responded to the High Priest's question in Acts 7:1 the way he did?
6. Read Luke 23:34 and Luke 23:46, then read Acts 7:59-60. What do you notice? Why is it significant?
7. In AD 197, Tertullian wrote: "*The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church*". What might this mean in the context of Stephen's story in Acts?
8. **Application:** How will you apply this message and what next step is God asking you to take today?



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