

Southside Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning – 4-12-26  
Christianity 103 – Message 7 Part 3  
Stephen speaks truth to the religious leaders.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Stephen began his message by reminding them about Abraham.
  - a) Abraham grew up in a polytheistic environment.
  - b) Abraham faced his crisis of belief when God spoke to him.
- 2) God called Abraham to leave his home.
- 3) Abraham's faith was not in the land but in the promise God had made.
- 4) It is important to be mindful of those "in between" times.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Stephen moves from Moses to Joseph.
- 2) Faith is obeying God in spite of what we see, how we feel or what may happen.
- 3) Faith is not believing in spite of evidence but obeying in spite of consequence.

2. God made a covenant with Abraham. Acts 7:8, Genesis 17:9-10

a. The Covenant of Circumcision.

- 1) This was a physical sign God established with Abraham and his descendants.
- 2) What was the purpose?
  - a) A sign of identity –
  - b) A seal of righteousness by faith –
  - c) A promise of land and descendants –
- 3) A physical operation that had a spiritual significance.

b. Are there any parallels to this today?

- 1) There is a spiritual circumcision that takes place when someone is born again.
  - a) Col. 2:11-12 –
- 2) There is a contrast in this that is important.
- 3) Verse 12 uses the picture of baptism.
- 4) Application –

3. Isaac, the Patriarchs and Joseph. Acts 7:8-19

a. Verse 8 –

- 1) This chronology would have been familiar to those listening.

b. Verse 9 –

- 1) Joseph was Jacob's favorite son.
  - a) Jacob gave him a coat of many colors.
- 2) An important truth to draw from Joseph's life is that of our testimony.
  - a) What you say and do is often never forgotten by those watching you.
- 3) After Joseph left the presence of his brothers that day, he would spend the next 13 years facing difficult circumstances.

c. Verse 10 –

- 1) God is the One who delivered him out of "all his afflictions."
  - a) When you face "affliction," it is important to think about what God is trying to teach you about yourself or about Him.
- 2) Put yourself in Joseph's shoes for a moment.

- 3) Remember those “in between” times? Joseph’s time lasted for 13 years.
- 4) Application –
  - d. While in prison.
    - 1) Joseph continued to serve.
  - e. Verse 11 –
    - 1) The famine came.
  - f. Verse 12 –
    - 1) Notice how God is working in many ways.
  - g. Verse 13 –
    - 1) Did Joseph forgive them?
      - a) Genesis 45:14-15 -
    - 2) Application – The hidden sin that separated them has been dealt with.
- 4. Today’s Takeaway:
  - a. If Moses and Joseph believed what God had said, why would these people not believe what God has said?
  - b. Do you understand the spiritual circumcision that took place in your life when you believed?
  - c. Testimony!