

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 6-14-26
Christianity 103 – Message 7 Part 9
Stephen rebukes those who have been listening.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

1) We launched the Prayer Room ministry.

a) Goal – that every believer here at SBC would –

b) We are seeking to be alert, attentive, available, and ready to respond in immediate obedience when God speaks.

2) Spiritual disciplines – Prayer and Obedience.

a) Phil. 4:6, Heb. 4:16, Phil. 2:8 and Luke 6:46.

3) The Prayer Room:

a) A place to pray when the church doors are open.

b) An alternate place to respond to the Lord at any time in the service.

4) Are you ready for the battle?

a) Rom. 6:16 – You have a choice.

b) II Cor. 10:5 – The battle is in your mind.

5) Invitations are rooted in the understanding that spiritual growth is a continuous journey, not a one-time event.

b. A look back at Acts 7.

1) “God turned and gave them up” because of their persistent worship of idols.

a) Syncretism – Israel tried to blend the worship of idols with the worship of God.

b) That brings us back to Acts 7:51.

c. Taking a look ahead:

1) This is a tough, penetrating verse.

2) There is a little more we need to see before we move on.

2. Search us, oh God. Acts 7:51-53.

a. Verse 51 –

1) “stiffnecked” – stubborn, headstrong, obstinate. How stubborn are you?

a) At the root of this stubbornness is a rebellious attitude.

2) “uncircumcised in heart” – hearts are covered, senses closed to the work of the Spirit.

a) “circumcision” – equivalent to pagan or heathenish.

b) A heart like one who does not believe in God.

3) “uncircumcised in ears” – ears are covered to what God is saying.

a) You will not let your heart listen to God’s message.

4) “resist the Holy Ghost” – oppose, strive against.

a) They refused to listen to the Holy Spirit. They would not obey Him.

b. Verse 52 –

1) Stephen states the obvious truth.

a) Stephen points out they betrayed and murdered Jesus.

c. Verse 53 –

1) Nowhere in the Old Testament does it state that the Law was given by angels.

a) How do we reconcile this?

3. Sadly, nothing seems to have changed. Acts 7:54-60.

a. Verse 54 –

1) The Holy Spirit has recorded through Luke the response of the people.

a) “cut to the heart” – this means they were sawn through mentally.

- b) “gnashed on him with their teeth.” – a picture of intense rage and hostility.
- b. Verse 55 –
 - 1) A stark contrast appears here.
 - 2) The religious group is looking at Stephen, and Stephen is looking up at the Lord.
 - a) Stephen “saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”
- c. Verse 56 –
 - 1) Stephen shares the testimony of what God is allowing him to see.
 - 2) The religious leaders would have considered this to be blasphemy.
 - a) Why? Because Stephen is identifying Jesus with God.
- d. Verse 57 –
 - 1) Luke again records for us how they responded.
 - a) “they cried with a loud voice” –
 - b) “they stopped their ears.” –
- e. Verse 58 –
 - 1) What was the reason for stoning Stephen?
 - a) Was this a legal move or the result of mob violence?
 - 2) “cast him out of the city” –
- f. Verse 59 –
 - 1) The people are throwing stones and Stephen is praying.
 - a) What do you see here?
- g. Verse 60 –
 - 1) In the face of all this adversity, what does Stephen do?
 - a) He prays, Lord forgive this sin of theirs.
 - b) It states that Stephen “fell asleep.”
 - 2) What do you want when you breathe your last breath?
- 4. Today’s Take Away:
 - a. Believer, refuse to be “**stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears**” and “**resist the Holy Ghost**”. This happens when...
 - b. You refuse to acknowledge God’s authority.
 - c. You reject the gospel.
 - d. You disobey God’s Word.
 - e. You are prideful and rely on self.
 - f. You are resisting the conviction of the Spirit.