

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 3-15-26
Christianity 103 – Message 7 Part 1
Stephen speaks truth to the religious leaders.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The latter part of Acts 6 gives us a look at who Stephen is.
 - a) A man surrendered to the Lord who is walking in the Spirit. Obeying God despite what he sees or how he feels.
 - b) Faith is not believing in spite of evidence but obeying in spite of consequence.
- 2) Verse 9 – Stephen faced a lot of diversity among the Jews.
- 3) Verse 11 – We see that truth doesn't matter but the agenda does.
- 4) Verse 14 – Religious leaders tried to show Stephen as a threat to the temple and to the law.
- 5) Verse 15 – Stephen was patiently waiting on the Spirit to lead him.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) It is hard to be quiet when you are being attacked. Why? It is personal.
- 2) Consider this contrast between the unbeliever and the believer.
- 3) The temperature of this situation with Stephen is getting ready to change dramatically.
- 4) This is a long chapter filled with meat for the believer.

2. The right message then and now.

a. Acts 7 as a whole.

- 1) Acts 7 is a historical record starting with Abraham through Joseph to Moses and the wilderness journey.
 - a) It would be easy for us to say we know these stories.

b. Why was it the right message then?

- 1) Stephen showed God's faithfulness to keep His promises.
 - a) God is the faithful One in these stories.
- 2) Stephen exposed Israel's rebellion and rejection of God's prophets.
 - a) The rejected Moses, Joseph, and the prophets.
- 3) Stephen challenged them that they missed the truth of the temple and the law.
 - a) Stephen told them that God met with Abraham and Moses before the temple was built.
 - b) Isaiah 66:1-2 –
- 4) Stephen spoke to their false accusations.
 - a) Stephen's testimony reflects that he understood the temple and the law.

c. The right message for us today.

- 1) A powerful sermon in the face of persecution and of giving your life for your faith.
 - a) The time we are living in is coming full circle to moments like this in Stephen's life.
- 2) Be uncompromising and bold in your faith and witness.
 - a) We are called to take the Gospel into the world.
 - b) Something I am praying for the church. Acts 4:29 –
 - c) Let our boldness flow from this motive. Romans 1:16 –
- 3) Be a student of God's Word - studying, knowing, and applying God's Word.
 - a) Stephen had a grasp of Old Testament history.
 - b) Stephen used his sword. Ephesians 6:17 –
 - c) Believers are challenged to study God's Word, to hide it in their hearts, and to rightly divide it. This is so that we do not fall into error or gripped by fear by the things of this world.
 - d) I Peter 3:15 –
 - e) How is this accomplished?

- 4) Be alert, attentive, available, and ready for opposition and persecution.
 - a) Stephen was obedient to what God was doing in his life.
 - b) Faith – obeying God despite what we see or how we feel or even what may happen.
 - c) The world is simply doing what it does naturally every day.
 - d) II Timothy 3:12 –
 - e) Philippians 1:29 –
 - 5) Keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep your eyes on things that are eternal.
 - a) When Stephen realized what was going to happen, where did he look?
 - b) May the Lord remind us to look up when we get squeezed by trials.
 - c) Hebrews 12:2 –
 - d) Colossians 3:1-2 –
 - 6) Remember grace received must also be released.
 - a) Acts 7:54-60.
 - b) Who is he modeling?
 - c) Matthew 5:44 –
 - d) Luke 23:34 –
3. Today's Takeaways:
- a. Stephen confronted a lot of diversity that day.
 - b. What is causing chaos in our culture?
 - c. Accept the challenges in Acts 7.