

Southside Baptist Church  
Sunday Morning – 3-22-26  
Christianity 103 – Message 7 Part 2  
Stephen speaks the truth to the religious leaders.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

1) Acts 4:29 –

a) It's hard to be quiet when you are being attacked because it is personal.

2) Stephen's message was the right message then and also for today.

a) The Bible is relevant. God's truth is absolute truth and not affected by the culture.

b) Man suffers from rejecting God's absolute truth.

3) Why was it the right message then?

a) Stephen showed God's faithfulness to keep His promises.

b) Stephen exposed Israel's rebellion and rejection of God's prophets.

c) Stephen pointed out that they missed the truth about the temple and the law.

d) Stephen spoke to their false accusations.

4) Why is it the right message for us today? It challenges us to:

a) Be uncompromising and bold in our faith and witness.

b) Be a student of God's Word.

c) Be alert, attentive, available, and ready for opposition and persecution.

d) Keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep your eyes on things that are eternal.

e) To forgive "one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

b. Taking a look ahead:

1) Faith – obeying God in spite of what we see, how we feel or what may happen.

a) Faith is not believing in spite of evidence but obeying in spite of consequence.

2. Abraham's faith. Acts 7:1-8.

a. What do we know about Abraham before God spoke to him?

1) Abraham was a descendant of Noah through his son Shem. Genesis 11:10-26

2) His family, led by his father Terah, left Ur of the Chaldeans.

3) According to Joshua 24:2 – Abraham was around –

b. Why is this important?

1) Everyone is walking their own path in this life.

a) God speaks to Abraham, and he responds in faith.

c. Verse 1 –

1) This is Caiaphas the high priest speaking.

2) Verse 2 – Stephen is teaching but also testing their memory.

d. Do you remember what God said to Abraham? Verse 3

1) Verse 3 –

a) "before he dwelt in Haran"

b) This is the call of God upon Abraham's life.

c) Is there a call upon your life?

2) What does this mean?

a) It identifies that you belong to God.

b) God has a plan for your life.

c) God speaks, leads, and directs you toward that purpose and plan.

d) You are responsible for responding and obeying.

e. What is the call on every believer's life?

1) God called you to Himself to trust Him for salvation. I Peter 2:9

- 2) God calls us to live a life that honors Him. I Thess. 4:7
- 3) God calls you to participate in His redemptive plan for the world. Matt. 28:19-20, Eph. 2:10
- 4) Put this in perspective because you are in a similar place to Abraham.
  - a) What is the danger of waiting?
3. Abraham by faith obeyed God's call on his life. Acts 7:4
  - a. Abraham was on the move.
    - 1) Verse 4 –
  - b. Abraham believed, he trusted God. Verse 5
    - 1) It is worth remembering some of the specifics of this story.
  - c. Do you see faith here?
    - 1) God called Abraham to leave his homeland and promised him the land of Canaan.
      - a) Abraham never owned any land during his lifetime.
      - b) Abraham's faith was in the future promise of God and not in whether he immediately possessed any land.
  - d. Personal application:
    - 1) As you consider God's call on your life and wonder what the days ahead may look like, keep in mind these things:
      - a) Be aware of those in between times.
      - b) Walk in the Spirit, moment by moment.
      - c) Be ready for times of teaching and testing.
      - d) Keep pressing on by faith.
4. Israel faced a difficult time in Egypt. Acts 7:6-7
  - a. God reveals to Abraham some difficult news.
    - 1) Verse 6 –
      - a) How would you receive this news about your descendants?
      - 2) For a time, Joseph's memory was honored in the way the Egyptians treated the Hebrews.
      - 3) Why did Stephen mention this here?
5. Today's Takeaways:
  - a. The underlying message/question posed by Stephen is, do you believe in God?
  - b. Believer, do you know you have a call of God upon your life?
  - c. There is a lot in this story about faith and obedience.