

### **Energized For Mission - It Is Finished**

*Acts 6:13-15; 7:1-3, 9-10, 17-18, 20a, 23-25, 30-33, 35, 39, 48-60*

If everyone in the Kingdom of God is a priest, then everyone is vulnerable to the occupational \_\_\_\_\_ that come with being witnesses of Jesus. Stephen isn't an Apostle. Yet, his witness will lead to his \_\_\_\_\_.

*What's all the fuss about?* It all comes down to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. Stephen and the early Christians made the claim that the law and the temple were no longer the central \_\_\_\_\_ for God's people. Which was an attack on those who had the most to \_\_\_\_\_ from maintaining the old order: priests and other religious leaders.

These religious leaders were getting \_\_\_\_\_ because, "...a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7) Not only were the law and temple central to their \_\_\_\_\_, they were central to their \_\_\_\_\_ and their place of honor, privilege, and wealth in first century Judaism.

How does Stephen respond to their accusations in Acts 6:13-14? He doesn't really \_\_\_\_\_ it. He \_\_\_\_\_ his position, with the very faith they were claiming to protect, by making three basic points (with lots of verses!):

God never \_\_\_\_\_ a temple to start this whole thing in the first place.

No one ever \_\_\_\_\_ the law anyway - which incidentally was the purpose of the \_\_\_\_\_!

Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ both the law and the need for the temple. It is \_\_\_\_\_!

Anyone exhausted from the "rat race" of trying to prove themselves to God or the world finds \_\_\_\_\_.

Anyone who has put their hopes in their own effort and accomplishments will feel \_\_\_\_\_.

Seeing and appreciating God's love and graciousness at work in Jesus requires and triggers \_\_\_\_\_.

Refusing to let someone else's work satisfy your debt takes a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.

Humility isn't thinking more of yourself or less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. Jesus both commands humility and fosters humility. Which is why Stephen can:

Tell the painful truth even in the face of danger and death.

See Jesus standing as an \_\_\_\_\_ at the right hand of God.

See Jesus standing to \_\_\_\_\_ and welcome him as he prayed.

Ask the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ his enemies.

*How is the Holy Spirit helping you see the finished work of Christ more clearly?*

*How is the Holy Spirit leading you towards a Christ-like humility?*

*As you consider the life and death of Stephen, what is the Holy Spirit leading you to DO in response to what Christ has already DONE?*