

Worship Jesus

the world will hate you for it.

Acts 7:1-53

Profile of a Kingdom Builder (Acts 6).

- i. Full of wisdom (vv. 6:3; 10).
- ii. Full of the Holy Spirit and of faith (v. 6:5).
- iii. Full of grace and power (v. 6:8).
- iv. He had been with Jesus (v. 6:15; cf. 4:13).
- v. Killed by stiff-necked people (v. 7:60).

Big Idea: Christ is the end and truth of the law and the temple; therefore, we worship Jesus not work or traditions.

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." (vv. 51-53).

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Worship Jesus, the world will hate you for it.

1. Christianity enrages the world (6:11-15).
2. Use God's Word to defend you (7:1-2).
3. Stiff-necked people resist God (7:2-51).
4. Unstiffen your neck (7:51-53).

1. Christianity enrages the world (6:11-14).

"We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God ... ¹⁴ for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us." (Acts 6:11, 14 ESV).

Kingdom builders can expect:

- i. Complaints from religious people (v. 6:9).
- ii. People fear change to their customs (6:11; 14b).
- iii. Jesus is always better than traditions (6:14).

Decide to put Jesus before tradition.

2. Use God's Word to defend you (7:1-2).

"And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" ² And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham..." (vv. 1-2).

Trust scripture to win the battle.

- i. Truth matters more than feelings (Eph 4:15; Jer 17:9).
- ii. God's Word has all we need to know God (2Ti 3:16-17).
- iii. Align your beliefs with God's Word.

3. Stiff-necked people resist God (7:2-51).

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.” (Act 7:51)



3 Attributes of stiff-necked people:

- i. They fail to obey God (vv. 2-16).
- ii. They embrace self-worship/works (vv. 39-41).
- iii. They focus on religion more than relationship (vv. 47-50).

They failed to obey God

- i. Abraham only went half-way (v. 4).
- ii. Children of Abraham rejected Joseph (v. 9a).
- iii. Israel rejects Moses (vv. 27-28).
- iv. But God shows mercy (v. 4b; 9b-10; 36-37).

They put their faith in their works (vv. 39-41).

[God led them out of Egypt] ... “⁴¹ And they made a calf in those days, and offered a sacrifice to the idol and were rejoicing in the works of their hands.”

They focus on religion more than relationship (v. 47-50).

- i. They built a calf to hold God (v. 41).
- ii. They built a temple to hold God (v. 47).
- iii. God does not live in houses made by hands (v. 48).
- iv. They stopped worshiping God and started worshiping the temple (v. 6:13).



4. Unstiffen your neck (vv. 51-53)!

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Respond while there's still time.

- i. There's still hope for you.
- ii. God's patience will end (v. 42).
- iii. Trust Jesus, not the works of your hands.

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