



Title | Is It Worth It?
Series | THE CHURCH THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
Text | Acts 6:8-8:1a
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | August 11, 2019

Sermon Notes

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. **9** Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. **10** But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. **11** Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." **12** And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, **13** and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, **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." **15** And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. **7:1** And the high priest said, "Are these things so?" **2** And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . ." *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Acts 7:55

But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

ESV

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 6:8-7:1. When the high priest asked Stephen, “are these things so?” what decision did Stephen have to make? What temptations do you think he faced?

Tuesday:

Read Acts 7:1-8:1. Saul (also named Paul) is mentioned as a witness to Stephen’s execution. Now, read Paul’s account of his own conversion in Acts 22:6-21. What effect do you think Stephen had on Paul based on Acts 22:20?

Wednesday:

Read Mark 16:19; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 10:12. In each of these verses, what is the posture of Jesus as he is positioned at the right hand of God? Now, read Acts 7:55-56, which are the only two verses in the New Testament which describe a different posture of Jesus. What is the different posture, and is it significant? (See also Romans 8:34 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.)

Thursday:

Read 1 Corinthians 9:25 (wreath=crown); 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:10; 3:11. What are the crowns mentioned in these verses? People’s names are often symbolic in Scripture. Stephen’s name literally means “crown.” What might be the significance of this?

Friday:

Stephen’s story in Acts 6-8 reflects the principle that in every opportunity God brings, we choose: either the path of least resistance, or the road to greatest reward. How can you apply this principle to your life today?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to recognize the opportunities you bring to represent you well. And when they arrive, give me the courage to choose the road to greatest reward. Amen.