

159. The Stoning of Stephen (Acts 6:1-7:3, 7:51-8:3)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You promised that because people hated You, people will also hate Christian believers. Help us not to be afraid or give up our faith. Make us strong to always trust in You, no matter what other people say or think. We pray in Your name, Amen.

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Acts 6:1-4.

- What did the Greek-speaking Jews complain about?
- The early church had many strong Christians and they loved each other. Did anyone discriminate against other people, or did they love each other perfectly?
- Who decided how to solve the problem? What was their solution?
- The apostles didn't want to solve the problem about food. Why not?

Acts 6:5-7.

- Who chose the seven men – the apostles or the whole church?
- What kind of men did the church choose (look at verse 3)? Describe them.
- All seven men had Greek names. Why did the church choose Greek men to take care of the food?
- Was this a good decision for the church (look at verse 7)?

Acts 6:8-15.

- God was with Stephen. What did Stephen do with God's help?
- Some people were against Stephen. What did they say about Stephen? Was their accusation true?

Acts 7:1-2, and 7:51-8:1.

- Why do you think Stephen told the history of what God did for the Jewish people?
- The Jews liked to think they were always faithful to God. What did Stephen say about them? Were they always faithful to God and His prophets?
- What did Stephen pray before he died? Whose prayer did he copy (see Luke 23:34)?
- Who supervised the stoning and made sure Stephen died?
- Think about how the Jews thought they followed God and His law, but really they were against God. That is why Stephen criticized them. If Stephen visited us, what do you think he would say to us?