



Don't Leave Them Guessing Where You Stand

By Johnny Caruso on February 14, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 7

Stephen was not just one of the seven who served tables in Acts 6. He was also a strong witness of his faith. He was straight forward and blunt, at the cost of his life. Stephen was convinced his Jewish brothers and sisters needed to be convicted by the Holy Spirit before they could be changed. He wanted his people to humbly come to Christ and be saved. The shame of it is all the people refused to listen to what God led him to say.

There is not much prophetic preaching today. If there were, not many would listen to it. If we can find the time to go to church, we are looking for words of encouragement to help us through the next week. We come for approval from God in the things we are doing and hope to achieve in our lives. We come for God's love and a blessing. There is nothing wrong with those motives, but God's Word already speaks to those matters. If we are walking in the Spirit, He does.

Stephen did not last long. The people were infuriated and turned into an angry mob. They reacted to the truth. He pushed their buttons about their cushy beliefs, their own understanding and their own feelings about God. To be told they were doing it all wrong was unthinkable, unacceptable and, in their words, blasphemous. So, they did the very thing Stephen was preaching about that they did to Jesus. They killed another prophet. In their anger, they either did not realize, or refused to recognize, they were guilty of the very things Stephen preached about. Stephen preached the truth to change their lives. In turn, they denied his message and his words and took his life.

Let's face it, Stephen would not last long in our society today. He would mess up our comfort zone and step on our toes. He would meddle in his preaching because our lives are contrary to God's Word and His ways. Oh, we would not stone him, we would just completely marginalize him and the things he preached. That is just why prophetic preaching is so rare these days. Pastors want to be successful. No one wants to rock the boat or upset those who come to church.

Of course, the ones who need to hear this most are not reading it. To quote Jack Nicholson in the movie, *A Few Good Men*, in America today, "We can't handle the truth."

PRAYER: Lord, help all of us in the body of Jesus Christ today love You more and stand for the truth.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 8

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