



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 2, 2025

Acts 7:54-60

[54] Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. [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. [56] And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." [57] But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. [58] Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. [59] And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." [60] And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1. How is it that there can be such extreme responses to Jesus Christ? Some respond in repentance and worship, while others respond with anger and murderous hearts. Why do you think this is?
2. Why do you think Stephen was able to be calm even in the face of death? What do you think he saw and what do you think he *knew*?
3. What do you think of Jesus - who is normally seated at the right hand of the Father - ***standing*** as Stephen is about to enter eternity? What about this scene encourages and gives you hope?
4. In our passage, Stephen and Saul could not be more different. In fact, they are polar opposites in terms of their view of and faith in Jesus Christ. When you consider how God eventually uses Saul/Paul, what does this tell you about the people God chooses to use? What does this tell you about how God's plans and purposes are ultimately accomplished? How does this encourage you?
5. When Stephen died, He was calm as he saw Jesus standing waiting to welcome him into heaven. When Jesus died, He cried out in anguish, "My God My God why hast Thou forsaken Me?". Why was their response to death so different and how does this give you peace and hope?
6. As Christians why is it so important to compare our lives to the men and women of Scripture rather than compare the way we are living to other Christians around us? Is it unrealistic to think we can have faith like Stephen?