



Is Jesus Enough?

Introduction: Stephen, a man full of the Holy Spirit, was selected to serve and care for the Greek speaking widows. He also taught and preached the good news of Jesus. His wisdom and ability to communicate the gospel was unmatched by the Jewish teachers. The religious leaders conspired against him and made false accusations against him. Stephen is brought before the council to stand trial and he delivers a powerful sermon.

Text: Acts 6:8-7:1-60

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever been accused of doing or saying something you did not do or say? What was the circumstance? How did you feel? How did you defend yourself?
2. Acts 6:8-15 Why did the Jewish leaders debate Stephen? What is it about the Christian message that is in opposition to the Jewish faith?
3. What lies did they tell on Stephen? How does this connect Stephen with Jesus and why is that important?
4. How did Stephen begin his defense and why is it significant?
5. What is the importance of stressing that the glory of God appeared to Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia?
6. Read Joshua 24:2-3. What does this say about Abraham's upbringing and why is it significant?
7. Read Acts 7:9-10. What do you notice about God, Joseph, and his brothers in these two verses?
8. What is the importance of Joseph in this sermon by Stephen?
9. Who was Moses and why was he important to the Jewish faith?
10. To what purpose did God call Moses? What does Stephen point out about Israel's response to Moses? (See Acts 7:25, 27, 35,39) How does this connect with the current religious leaders of his day?
11. Read Acts 7:42 & Romans 1:18-32 What is the danger in rejecting God and what are the outcomes when God hands you over to a depraved mind?
12. The Temple became an idol to the Jews. Why is Jesus greater than the temple?
13. Read Acts 7:51-53. Instead of defending himself, Stephen brings them to account. What is his accusation? How did they respond (Acts 7:54-59)?
14. Stephen sees Jesus standing. This can represent two possibilities. Jesus stands as judge over those murdering Stephen. Jesus stands as Stephen's defense attorney (advocate). It could be both/and. How does this encourage you in your faith?
15. Read John 8:39-59, John 5:39-47, (John 2:19-22 & Matt. 12:6,42) How do these verses back up the points that Stephen made throughout his message?

Think About it:

Jesus is enough! Jesus is the promised seed from Abraham and all in Christ are of Abraham. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and greater than Moses for he is prophet, priest, and king. Jesus is greater than David and Solomon and he is the temple! The promise of land is fulfilled in the New Heavens and the New Earth, for this is what Abraham longed for (See Hebrews 11:10, 13-16). Our faith and assurance of everlasting life is found in no one other than Jesus the Christ!

Moving Forward:

Thank God every day for his grace and mercy. Set your mind every day to look unto Jesus and seek to glorify him in all you think, say, and do. Take advantage of opportunities to share your faith and begin praying for those you know are lost and need to trust Jesus!