

Sermon Discussion Guide:

# Stephen's Confrontational Sermon

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 7:1–53**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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## OVERVIEW

Stephen became a powerful voice for the Christians. He proclaimed Christ's messiahship to the Jews and—because of it—was arrested. He was charged for blaspheming against God, Moses, the law, and the temple. All items that Israel holds dear. Stephen started preaching Christ boldly because he loved Jesus and believed in the resurrection. He did not fear man so he could share the gospel clearly, knowing that he was putting his life at risk. Israel has a history of rejecting the messengers that God has sent as well as replacing God's presence with idols. Stephen shows us that in the midst of opposition and a world that rejects Jesus, that **we are called to not resist the rule, the redemption, and the power of Christ.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Stephen was a believer that did not fear man and as such, proclaimed Christ freely and unashamed. Who in your life has been one such example to you? In what ways do you proclaim Christ freely? In what ways do you struggle?
2. Can you think of ways you are currently suffering because of your faith? Suffering for Jesus is a privilege that we should never aim to avoid. If you are not suffering, are you witnessing? Are you boldly proclaiming the gospel? In what ways have you grown complacent or too comfortable?
3. *"But God is with him..."* Even in our biggest trials God is with us. How has God gotten you through difficult times in the past? How has he strengthened you or given you the words to say when you have stepped out in faith? How can remembering the past help us to be bold right now? What can you do this week to share the truth of the gospel?
4. Jesus is the ultimate deliverer. In what ways has Jesus delivered you? How do you reject the work of Jesus in your life? What are some idols you replace him with? Why are these idols worthless and unfulfilling?