

Fall 2021 Bible Study: The Acts of the Apostles

"You shall be my witnesses"

September 27, 2021

Lesson 3

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Background: Chapters 6

Jewish custom to care for the less fortunate and how it became part of the new Christian Church. Divisions that are arising in the new church.

Scripture lessons for today:

Chapter 6:1-8 Seven good men called to be "care givers".

Why were these new men called? What is their role? Who
Are the seven, what is their significance. How are they
Commissioned? *When do we do this today?*

Chapter 6:8-15: Stephen arrested

Why is Stephen arrested? What is his crime?
What was the false testimony used against him?
What did the Council think?

Chapter 7:1-53 Stephen's testimony and defence:

History of defiance against God and His Promise

7:1-8 Story of Abraham and future promise.

7:9-16 The patriarchs and story of Joseph, promise continues.

7:17-22 The raising of Moses in Egypt

7:23-34 Moses, a Hebrew, flees and then sent back

7:35-43 Still the people rejected God for false idols

7:44-50 The dwelling of the most High; not the Temple

7:51-53 **The Implicit condemnation becomes explicit**

Why did Stephen need to remind the Council of their lack of belief and disobedience throughout their history? Did he need to call them murderers and also those who have not kept the law?

Chapter 7:54-60 The Stoning of Stephen

What are the leaders feeling? How do they respond?

What does Stephen do? Did he need to die?

What is a martyr's role? How did his death help the cause?

How much courage do we have against those who distort the truth and lack justice?

Chapter 8:1-3 Our introduction to Saul

Who is Saul? Why is he persecuting Christ's followers?

Chapter 8:4-25 Philip preaches in Samaria

What do we know about Samaria? What is the significance of Philip reaching out with the good news to the Samaritans?

What is the significance of the visit of Peter and John?

Chapter 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Why did Philip meet the Ethiopian? What was he reading?

What was the significance of the Isaiah passage?

What happened at his baptism?

Concluding Thoughts: The witness continues to the next places in their world . . .

(for next week, find a map of the region in Paul's day)

How are we continuing the witness today?

Closing Prayers