



DIGGING DEEPER

Acts 6v8 – 7v60 – **Filled with Holy Spirit**

PLEASE READ – Acts 6v8 – 7v60

GETTING STARTED

Is Jesus more precious to you than life itself? Discuss...

1) THE MAN ON TRIAL (6v8-10)

What do we learn about Stephen from the first 8 verses of chapter 6? Build a character profile – both in terms of what he's like and what he does...

Why then is he on trial?

2) THE CHARGES (6v11-15)

What do you think Stephen was preaching and how would you summarise the charges brought against him? (Note – there are 2 main charges)

How does that fit with the teaching of Jesus himself? See Mt 5v17 / 12v6

How does Jesus fulfil the law and the temple? (That's a big question!)

3) THE DEFENCE (7v1-53)

Why do you think Stephen gives a potted history of God's dealings with his people?

What are the main points he makes with regard to the...

- Temple (v44-50)
- Law (v51-53)

In what ways today do people make the same mistake as the religious leaders with respect to the temple?

4) THE VERDICT (7v54-60)

Why are the Sanhedrin so angry in v54?

How does this contrast with Stephen in the verses that follow? See also 6v15

Who does Stephen remind you of in his death?

How can we enjoy the same composure / contentedness at Stephen?

Take heart from the words of Stephen below...

Acts 7v55-56: But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."