The JOURNEYMEN

"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said,
I will give it to you: come with us, and we will do you good..."
-- Numbers 10:29

Book Study #6 ACTS — Acts 7:1- 8:3

Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin – The Stoning of Stephen – The Church Persecuted and Scattered

Before we begin this journey...

1. In what ways are you just like or different from your parents?
2. Have you ever witnessed violence against a person or group of people in person or on a television documentary? How did you respond?
3. When is a time you remember being rejected by childhood peers?

Do Some Research and Mapping...

4. Why did Stephen make this speech? (7:1-2)
5. As he wove the history of the Jews, how did Stephen show a pattern of opposition to God and His plan for them? (7:2-4, 9, 23-29)
6. How did Stephen compare the attitude of those in the Sanhedrin with that of God's people down through the centuries? (7:51-53)
7. Why did the Jewish leaders respond to Stephen as they did? (7:54)
8. Why was Stephen put to death? (7:56-60)
9. What change in the church did Stephen's death bring about? (8:1)
10. How did Stephen's mourners show courage at his burial? (8:2)
11. What was happening to the church at this time? (8:2-3)
12. Who began to attack the church? How? (8:3)

Sort, Organize, Discuss, Understand...

13. How can a group of believers be a "stiff-necked people"?
14. What stiff-necked attitudes prevent us from seeing what God wants us to see?
15. Faced with the violent mob, Stephen seemed fearless; how was he able to face this danger?
16. What would make it possible for you to be calm and sure in the middle of extreme danger?
17. In what ways are Christians under attack today?
18. How can you respond whenever others attack or reject you for your Christian identity, views, or life-style?

Write It Down...

Application for this week...

19. From what older, more mature believer can you learn? How?
20. How can Stephen's example help you be prepared to handle rejection?
21. What will most remind you to respond with courage when you are attacked or rejected for your faith in Christ?

Write It Down...

A prayer for your journey… *"Lord Jesus, as I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life."* *-Amen*

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