

Sunday School Lesson

October 9, 2022

Stephen's Arrest and Speech

Acts 6:8—7:2a

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Questions for Us Today

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Have you faced opposition due to your life as a Christian?

Do you know someone who has?

Sunday School Lesson Objectives

October 9, 2022

1. To understand the character of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, as written by Doctor Luke.
2. To understand how those who preach and demonstrate the Gospel of Christ may face opposition.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1

October 9, 2022

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Luke

3. Points of Information: Acts

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

October 9, 2022

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Luke

Luke was a Gentile, not a Jew.

Luke was a medical doctor by profession, which the Apostle Paul noted in Colossians 4:14 when he referred to Luke as “the beloved physician.”

Points of Information – Luke

Although Luke traveled and worked directly with the Apostle Paul, he (Luke) was not one of the original Twelve Disciples and he was not an eyewitness to the earthly ministry of Christ Jesus.

Points of Information – Acts

The Book of The Acts of the Apostles was written by Dr. Luke likely soon after A.D. 60.

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Much of the ministry of the Apostle Paul is described in the Book of Acts – especially in terms of his missionary journeys. Luke's close friendship and ministerial partnership with Paul enabled him to bear witness to the spread of the Gospel.

Points of Information – Acts

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles serves as a historical bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles (Letters) in the New Testament.

Points of Information – Acts

In Chapter 1 of The Book of Acts, the Risen Jesus told the Apostles that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

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In Chapter 2, on a momentous Day of Pentecost, those gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit as Peter preached a powerful sermon and about 3,000 souls were saved.

Points of Information – Acts

In Chapters 3 and 4, Peter and John boldly went forward, preaching the Gospel, healing the sick and demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit.

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In Chapter 5, Peter and John suffered imprisonment, beatings and other persecution for maintaining their faith and preaching the Word. They were glad to do so.

Stephen's Arrest and Speech

Lesson Context

In the beginning Verses of the 6th Chapter of Acts, to help with feeding and caring for widows, orphans and the poor, the Disciples decided to select and appoint 7 Deacons. Stephen was the first one named.

Stephen's Arrest and Speech

Text – UMI Outline #1

13

Acts 6:8-10

Introduction of Stephen

Acts 6:8 (NLT)

Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.

Acts 6:9-10

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But, one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia.

None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.

Stephen's Arrest and Speech

Text – UMI Outline #2

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Acts 6:11-14

Opposition to Stephen

Acts 6:11-12

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So, they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, “We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God.”

This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So, they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council.

Acts 6:13-14

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The lying witnesses said, “This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses.

We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

Stephen's Arrest and Speech

Text – UMI Outline #3

19

Acts 6:15—7:2a

Stephen's Effect on the Sanhedrin

Acts 6:15—7:2a

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At this point, everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.

Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these accusations true?"

This was Stephen's reply: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me."

Remember these things:

You may very well face opposition due to your life as a Christian.

In His Sermon on the Mount (in the Beatitudes), Jesus promised us that those who are persecuted for His sake will be blessed. Matthew 6:10-12

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