



Harvest Christian Fellowship
A LIFE WELL-LIVED • ACTS 6:8-8:8 • 10/31/2021

TAKEAWAY

God calls us to maintain an eternal perspective on life so that we might boldly share our faith regardless of the consequences.

INTRODUCTION

How are you different now than you were before coming to faith in Christ? Do other people view you differently now? How so?

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 6:8-15.

What attributes of Stephen are evident in these verses?

What do you consider the decisive factor in Stephen's ability to best his opponents in this discussion /debate (v. 10)? What implication does this have for us?

What do you think the Sanhedrin members saw in Stephen's face that evoked a comparison with an angel's face (v. 15)?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 7:1-53.

What were the three main points of Stephen's speech?

How did Stephen prevent his opponents from putting him on the defensive?

Why do you think he bluntly leveled serious charges against them? What did he want to accomplish?

Stephen boldly took the offensive, describing his opponents as stubborn and rejecting the Spirit's leading. The religious leaders followed their ancestors' example by murdering Jesus, and they failed to keep the law they professed to revere. Stephen declared that God never had limited Himself to one land or to a particular place, such as the temple. He well may have been the first Christian to grasp clearly God's intention that Gentiles as well as Jews receive the good news of salvation in Christ.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 7:54-60.

How would you paraphrase the religious leaders' response in verse 54? What parallels are evident between Jesus' death and Stephen's death?

How is the Spirit's presence emphasized? What do you think was the purpose of Stephen's vision?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 8:1-8.

According to verse 4, what effect did the persecution and scattering of the early church have on the believers' faith? What can we learn from their example?

APPLICATION

Do you have difficulty being bold? Why? How do we balance boldness with humility?

Have any of your circumstances—job, family, friendships, etc.—changed recently? If so, what new opportunities might exist for you to spread the gospel?

PRAYER

Close with a prayer of encouragement for your group, challenging them to pursue boldness this week. Thank God for the examples of Stephen and others who show us how to live with zeal for the gospel.