

We Are the Church: Persecuted but Unstoppable

READ: Skim over Acts 5:17-7:53 & read Acts 7:54-8:8

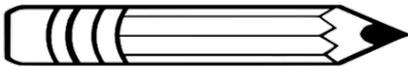
1. As you skim over Acts 5-7, what do you notice as key themes which stand out....?
2. When Stephen speaks to the Sanhedrin (Acts 7:1-53), what are the key points of his argument? Why do you think he structures his argument in this way, especially when considering his audience? What can we learn from him....?
3. What do you make of Stephen's hearers' accusations and why did they respond in the way they did (7:54)?
4. Why wasn't Stephen afraid of the accusations, and what part did his vision/wider theology play in his attitude?
5. How did Stephen prepare for his death? What were the reasons for his brutal execution?
6. Stephen's enemies yell and cover their ears. Why? Can you think of an occasion when you have experienced or seen a similar response? Why do you think this happened?
7. What were Stephen's last two requests before he was put to death? What do you make of them?
8. What would you do for your faith? Is there a line which you would not cross in your willingness to endure persecution?
9. Have you ever been 'persecuted' for your faith in Jesus? Share your experiences.
10. What happens as a result of Stephen's death? Is this the same reality wherever there is persecution of Christians?
11. Spend some time praying for the persecuted church and thanking God for the privileges we enjoy in the U.K.

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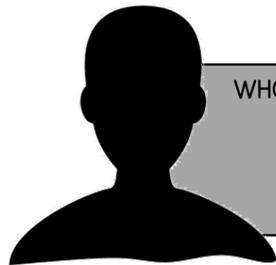
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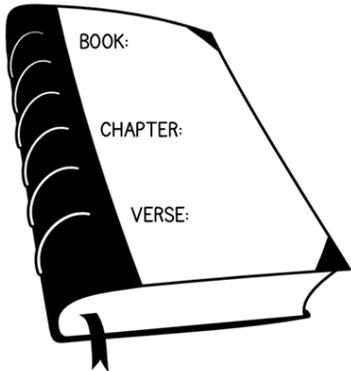
Sermon Notes



USE THIS SHEET TO HELP YOU HEAR AND RESPOND TO WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD TODAY



WHO IS SPEAKING...?

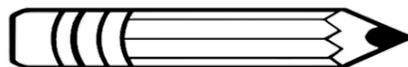


WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS OF THE MESSAGE...?

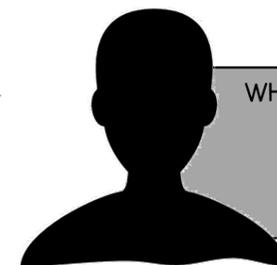
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WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSE...?

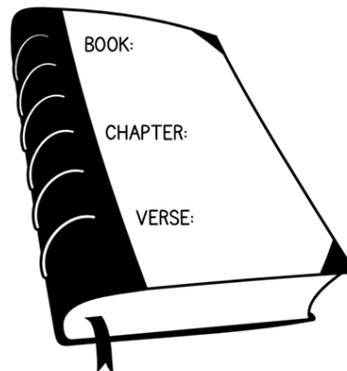
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