



Resurrection Hope

Scripture: Acts 6-7:60

Series: Abide With Us

When we _____ ourselves in Scripture and _____ it to our daily lives, we're _____ and molded in unimaginable ways.

Stephen accuses the religious leaders of:

- being _____
- being _____ in hearts and ears
- always _____ the Holy Spirit

The _____ of the early church can be linked directly to the faithful _____ of martyrs.

- Looking at the _____ of past Christians gives us resurrection _____ in our present.
- There is _____, even in the midst of our _____.
- Martyrs did not claim any _____ or _____ except the power of the Holy Spirit in them.

Start talking.

- As a child, who was the best storyteller you ever heard? What made that person so effective?
- Where did your ancestors come from? Do you have any heroes or "black sheep" in the family?

Start thinking.

- From 6:13-14, how would you write up the formal charges against Stephen?
- Why does Stephen spend the bulk of his history lesson talking about Moses? What parallels does he draw between Moses and Jesus?
- How does the quote in verse 37 begin to turn the tables on his accusers (regarding who is really rejecting Moses)?
- What does Stephen mean by the "uncircumcised and ears"? In this context, what is Stephen really saying about the Sanhedrin's regard for Moses and the Law?
- Of what does he accuse them in verses 51-53? How does his charge reveal the reason why he gave them this history lesson?

Start sharing.

- Since the Sanhedrin knew their history every bit as well as Stephen, how do you account for their radically different response to Jesus? To fully understand Jesus, what is needed in your life besides well-rehearsed knowledge??
- In what ways could the charges that Stephen makes against the leaders be made against you? How might you be feeling "stiff-necked" this week? How will you begin to bow to God in that area now?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, I admit that I often know much but obey little. Help me not to just know but to understand and follow through. Help me to adhere your words in my heart that I may be found faithful as I point to you in every area of my life.

Start Doing:

- Look for where God is doing something in the ordinariness of life, and join Him.
- Acknowledge and thank God for His faithfulness in the past and place your current struggles at his feet and receive and live into the hope of what only He can do in your life.