

Acts #43

“Sacrifices Don’t Cut It”

*Acts 7:35-53*

**What defines you?**

Stephen is defined by dying magnificently which is a result of living magnificently, not perfectly but wisely and it wasn’t that he singlehandedly defeated sin in his life, it was that he trusted and loved Jesus Christ who had already won that victory for him.

*What made Stephen so special is that he took the challenge to follow Jesus seriously and it led him to a place that few believers ever see.*

He took up his cross and lost his life, and in the process gained a reputation of faithfulness but lest we forget, the faithfulness involved was that of Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit ministering to him along a fantastic journey that glorified God to the maximum; it really isn’t about Stephen!

**Stephen has put on the whole armor from God even before Paul wrote about it; he’s established the altar of the priesthood in his soul and as a mature believer, he’s become a reflection of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.**

As a result, Stephen received maximum blessing from his spiritual growth and this blessing overflows to others.

*His spiritual blessing is his very occupation with Jesus Christ which means he shared God’s absolute happiness, giving him maximum grace orientation from the command post in his soul, so that he is spiritually self-sustained through the mind of Christ becoming his mind.*

A winner believer like Stephen always has capacity to avoid evil and line up with truth and therefore, he has maximum blessing being influenced from the Word and minimal influence from evil.

**God’s plan goes on in spite of ignorance of His Word and in spite of the negative reaction of believers.**

Stephen is saying to the Sanhedrin that God’s plan goes on in spite of the crucifixion and not only that, Jesus Christ will come back and He will rule Israel and in the meantime, God’s plan will go on because you will be under the fifth cycle of discipline and God will raise up a new kingdom, the Church, the kingdom of regenerate believers.

*It isn’t Stephen who has rejected the God of Israel, it is the Sanhedrin and Jesus Christ as the God of Israel appointed Moses and since He did, Jewish rejection of Jesus was Jewish rejection of Moses, so when the Sanhedrin rejected Jesus Christ, they blasphemed Moses*

*rather than Stephen.*

**People who reject Jesus Christ as Savior, depend upon their own good works and rely upon their own thinking.**

**Idolatry is primarily a mental attitude and human viewpoint expresses itself in idolatry but divine viewpoint expresses itself in faith-rest, peace, power and impact for God.**

*The very hand that created the universe is the hand that was nailed to Calvary's cross.*

**The One who brought all of these things into being is the One who actually died for their sins.**

**Stephen now compares the Sanhedrin with the Exodus generation who refused to believe the Word; this generation refuses to believe in the Living Word, Jesus Christ.**