

Book of Acts

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 6:1.

B. Satan's first attack against the whole church is to divide the church.

II. The church is looking for better methods, but God is looking for better men.

A. The Apostles committed themselves to prayer and the Word so they sought others to do basic service tasks like "waiting tables." (Matthew 6:33, 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

B. The church needs a man to step up to do any task even if it is in the background with no credit. This is what Stephen did.

C. Battles are won by doing - Stephen did something. (Acts 9)

D. God has been concerned throughout time not with real estate but the promises He made to his men and the fellowship He has had with them as they walked in faith.

E. Saul who would become the Apostle Paul consented to Stephen's death with delight.

III. The Devil's second major attack was a great persecution from the church, but it resulted in the spread of the gospel instead.

A. Acts 1:8 begins to be fulfilled in Acts 8:1.

B. The great heroes of the faith are layman.

C. Philip's method against Simon the magician was to simply preach Christ.

D. God uses Peter to open up the door to different people groups to the gospel as He does here.

E. The eunuch was led to Christ through the reading of Isaiah 53.

F. Guide to witnessing:

1. Get your mouth open.

2. Get your Bible open.

3. Preach Jesus.

IV. Saul (who became Paul) setting out to put a stop to what he thought was blasphemy was converted in a vision from Jesus.

A. What we do to believers, we do to Jesus. (Matthew 25:45)

- B. Two good questions to ask: Who are you Lord? What would you have me do?
- C. Saul was blind for the rest of his life because all he saw was Christ.
- D. Many people pray, but few people really pray.
- E. Bearing the name of Jesus comes in our conversation, conduct and our character.
- F. Little things are important.
- G. Paul was willing to face death for the gospel.
- H. Mass evangelism is a valid practice. (Acts 10:35)

Application questions

1. What kind of a man is God looking for to serve the church? Would Stephen have been known had he not caught onto this principle - what do you think?

2. How does one witness? Is this simple or complicated? Explain.

3. What was Paul's attitude toward the gospel, and how is the is a model for us today?
