

What More Can He Say?

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I. Introduction.

A. Texts: Acts 6:6-8.

B. Stephen was one of the Greek-speaking Jews who was chosen to preach and speak of his testimony of Jesus to Greek-speaking synagogues.

C. Saul of Tarsus was likely among those to whom Stephen preached.

II. The response of those who could not argue with Stephen was to bring him to court.

A. Stephen was charged with saying threatening things against the temple (the establishment) and attempting to change the Law (the status quo).

B. Stephen could not simply respond with a yes or no because he had affirmed some of those things but not in the way of which they accused him.

1. Stephen answered the charge of the change of Moses' Law by saying that Moses himself said that it would change.

2. Stephen answered the charge about the temple by saying that God Himself said that a house made with human hands was insufficient for Him. Believers are the house of God.

III. Stephen charged that these men were identifying themselves with historic enemies of the faith.

A. Men of faith always challenged the establishment.

1. Abraham was a man of lifelong faith who dared to change his life pattern in obedience to God.

2. Joseph went through constant change and God honored him.

3. Moses was a failure when he did not act by faith, so the only one worth following is God.

B. Moses himself pointed to Jesus.

1. Truth never leaves a person neutral. It always divides.

2. These people were experiencing this division.

3. Stephen knew that the issue was Jesus--his accusers were condemned by their own Scriptures. They had either to condemn or crown Jesus.

IV. Every believer sees Jesus at his death, and Stephen experienced this as his accusers stoned him.

V. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

A. Out of the blood of Stephen came the preaching of Paul.

B. The end of the first phase of the mission came with the death of Stephen, and the beginning of the new resulted from it.

Application questions:

1. What does Stephen's speech suggest about the relationship between Christianity and Judaism? Explain.

2. How are Christians called to challenge the establishment today?

3. Can suffering be a good thing? Explain.
