



Series on the Acts of the Apostles #16
**Lessons from Stephen,
the First Martyr**

Acts 7:2-53
Pastor Jim Efaw
Sunday Morning, May 31, 2009

Introduction: *Who do you want to be like? Stephen, whose murder and martyrdom we looked at three weeks ago, was probably more like Christ than any other person in the Scriptures other than the Apostle Paul.*

I. Lessons from Stephen's sermon

- A. God's Word is truth and will always come true. (v. 7:6; cf. 7:17)
 - 1. Regardless of whether a man believes or accepts the Word of God, it doesn't change its truth.
 - 2. Every prophecy, every promise will be fulfilled.
- B. God always sends a leader to warn and deliver His people. (vv. 7:20, 31-37)
 - 1. God will never leave us without direction.
 - 2. There will always be a voice and spiritual leaders.
 - 3. The message will never be silenced.

- C. God comes to a point where He gives people over to their desires. (v. 42)
- D. Even though God's people, Israel, were favored, they were too rebellious to realize they had killed their own Messiah.

II. Lessons from Stephen's fellowship with Christ

- A. Fellowship with Christ's nature. (vv. 6:8, 10)
- B. Fellowship in Christ's testimony. (vv. 7:59-60)
- C. Fellowship in suffering.
- D. Fellowship in the triumph. (secret of v. 55)

Conclusion: *How can I be more like Christ?*

- 1. *Make sure you know Him as your Savior.*
- 2. *Recognize His great love for you.*
- 3. *Deal with any sin that disrupts your fellowship with God.*
- 4. *Surrender your will to His authority.*
- 5. *Get to know Him better through regular study of His Word to you.*
- 6. *Die daily to self.*