



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, October 20, 2024

ACTS – The Church on Mission

One Holy Passion

Read/Reflect

1. Read Acts 6. This chapter describes the state of the church in Jerusalem. What was it like? How does it compare to descriptions of the church in Acts 2:42-45 and Acts 4:32-35? What happened?
2. Read Acts 7:54-60. What parallels between Stephen and Jesus do you recognize in this passage? See Luke 9:28-36; Luke 23:23; Luke 23:34; Luke 23:46. What do you think Luke, the author of Acts and the gospel of Luke, is suggesting in making these parallels?
3. Peter's sermon in Acts 2 led to mass conversions of some 3000 people (Acts 2:41). Stephen's sermon of Acts 7:2-53 led to his death (Acts 7:60). What might that teach us about success in the ministry of the gospel?

Explore

1. What kinds of things have brought division to the church since the time of the early church? How have those divisions been handled? Do you think we have dealt well with division within the church? What would you like to see happen when division occurs?
2. At New Life Church we make the distinction of elder and deacon from Acts 6. Elders are spiritual caregivers and deacons provide for physical needs. As a deacon, Stephen was known for the signs & wonders and the preaching he did. That's the very same thing the apostles (elders) did. What does that suggest about the shape of ministry in the church, its mandate, its mission, its focus?
3. In the face of rejection and threat Stephen saw the glory of God (Acts 7:55). What would it look like today to bear witness to Christ in ways that resemble Stephen's passion and courage? Where have you seen it? What things diminish our ability to see God's glory?

Pray

- Pray for the New Life deacon team, that in helping others God would sustain their one holy passion ("whatever you do to the least of these, you do it to me." – Jesus).
- Pray for New Life supported missionaries, especially for when they face hardship: Jonathan Barnhoorn, Fred Fictorie, Doug McKellan, Eve Pohl, Fernando Trevino,