



the upside down series
week six: chosen to serve

1. The _____ of the servant is the answer to a _____.
2. The _____ of the servant is divinely _____.
3. The _____ of the servant is _____ the same.
4. The _____ of the servant is _____ made.
5. The _____ of the servant is _____ given.

God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Are you facing a situation that has left you confused? Stay in the Word. God speaks as you study His word. Do you feel misunderstood? Are you unsure why your prayers remain unanswered? Keep waiting on the Lord and listening to Him speak. He will not delay. I love you and am praying for you!



day one: church needs

We are covering 2 chapters in this week's study. It won't be hard. We will break it up into 5 daily portions.

Start your time with the Lord with prayer. Now read Acts 6:1-7.

exploring the text

1. We start today's passage with a problem that the early church was facing. What is the problem?
2. How did the 12 apostles respond to the need they were facing?
3. What criteria were used to find those men appointed for duty?

4. What kind of duty were these men asked to take on?
5. What were the apostles going to spend their time doing instead?
6. Tell as much as you can about Stephen.
7. How were the men commissioned?
8. What was the effect of the apostles' solution on the church?

prayer

Pray that the Holy Spirit will impress deeply on your heart and mind the truth of the gospel. Tell God to open your eyes to the needs around you. Ask him to provide opportunities for you to serve. Continue to be filled with truth and the Holy Spirit.



day two: wrongly accused

Today is a new day. God's mercies are new in your life. Take a minute and thank Him for it!

Now read Acts 6:8-15.

exploring the text

1. Describe Stephen. What kind of man was he?
2. You would think people would like him. Did they? Why or why not?
3. How did the hearers treat Stephen? Why do you think they did it secretly?
4. Can you think of someone else in the New Testament who was falsely accused of speaking blasphemy?

interesting fact

Stephen was possessed by a holy calm even when wrongly accused. Calmness is a sign of a great woman. God has a way of putting a certain light upon the faces of Spirit filled men and women which cannot be mistaken.



day three: hear these words

We are going to be breaking up Stephen's sermon into 2 days. I would encourage you to read the entire length of Acts 7 to get some context.

Today, we will focus on Acts 7:1-34.

exploring the text

1. Start by reminding yourself why Stephen was arrested to begin with. What had he done wrong?
2. How does Stephen start his rebuttal? What tone do you detect?
3. Go through today's passage and pick out the major Old Testament personalities that Stephen talks about.

4. In vs.11-13, what was the outcome of Joseph's being left in a pit to die?

interesting fact

Stephen is one of the most beautiful characters in the Bible. He was full of grace and power. He had a great though short life, much like John the Baptist. He was a transition between Peter to Paul.

5. In vs. 21, how did God preserve the Messianic seed, or the line leading to Jesus?

6. In vs. 25, how was Moses also misunderstood?

7. In vs. 30, how long did Moses have to wait before God used him to deliver the Israelites?

8. In vs.34, what does God tell Moses? Write down that verse in the space below.



day four: temple of God

Let's finish the second half of Stephen's sermon today.

Read Acts 7:35-53.

exploring the text

1. Why did God send Moses to the people of Israel in vs. 35?

verse

1 Corinthians
6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

2. How did the people of Israel respond to Moses according to vs. 35-41?

3. In vs. 41, what was Israel's condition in the wilderness?

4. The phrase "found favor" with God is repeated multiple times in Acts 7 and is also associated with the life of Stephen. How does one find favor with God?



day five: a martyr's death

I hope you've found the life of Stephen to be a blessing and encouragement to you. Let's finish up the chapter on a strong note today.

interesting fact

There are several parallels between the death of Jesus and the death of Stephen. In both cases false witnesses were produced and the charge was one of blasphemy. In both cases the execution was accompanied by two prayers, as each prayed for the forgiveness of his executioners and for the reception of his spirit as he died. Thus did the disciple reflect his master.

Read Acts 7:54-60.

exploring the text

1. How did the crowd respond to Stephen's sermon?
2. What gave Stephen the strength he needed to face his persecutors?
3. Who was watching Stephen get stoned?
4. What were Stephen's last words?

