

Acts – 8/16/26

Read

Read Acts 7:54-8:3 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- What parallels exist between this story and Jesus' crucifixion? Why would Luke tie these two stories together?
- How did seeing God's glory and Jesus at God's right hand influence Stephen at the end of his life? Why did this perspective change matter as he faced persecution for following Jesus?
- Why would Luke refer to Stephen's death as him "falling asleep" (v.60). What does this teach about death in the Christian life?
- How does God use suffering to advance the church and his mission according to this passage? How does 8:1 connect back to Acts 1:8? What does this reveal about God's nature and character?
- What does 8:2 demonstrate about the role of mourning and lament in the Christian life? How do they fit into our understanding of mission and ministry?

Apply

- How does this passage challenge followers of Jesus to view death? What does it look like die to self daily in pursuit of becoming more like Jesus?
- Do you approach life and death with Stephen's attitude and perspective? Why or why not? How can you grow to view life and death more in line with the gospel?
- Stephen's willingness to forgive his murderers is remarkable evidence of Christ's work in his life. What makes forgiveness challenging for you? How can you grow to become more forgiving in Christ?
- Stephen saw "Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (v.55). How does the reality that Jesus awaits his friends encourage you in daily life?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.