

The Church Grows and Is Persecuted

Acts 5 - 8



Prayer



Surprising?



CONTEXT



READ: Acts 5:1-10



1.) What two things does v. 4 tell us about the Holy Spirit?



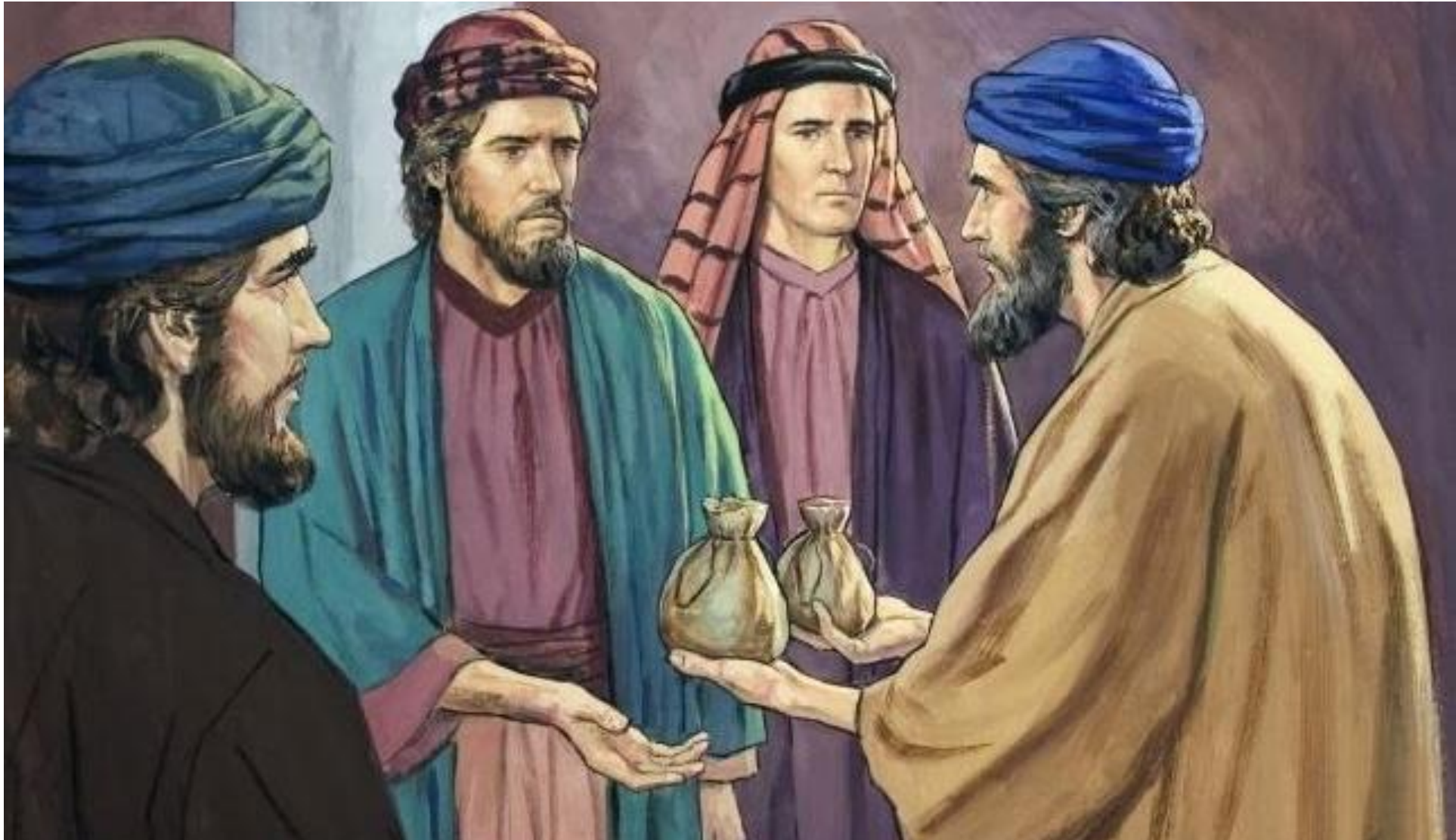
- The Holy Spirit is a person, and he is God.



2.) What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Where did they go wrong?



- They thought they could gain prestige by deceiving others with a show of being generous and godly



3.) What message did God send to the church by his swift punishment?



- Hypocrisy is no small sin in God's eyes. He wants truth in the heart.



OVERVIEW: Acts 5:12-16



READ: Acts 5:17-42



1.) Again the Jewish leaders demanded that the apostles stop preaching about Jesus. How did Peter respond? (v. 29)



2.) The Jewish leaders had the apostles flogged (whipped) and told them to stop preaching about Jesus. How did they respond? (vv. 41-42)



- They rejoiced!
- Never stopped preaching that Jesus is the Christ



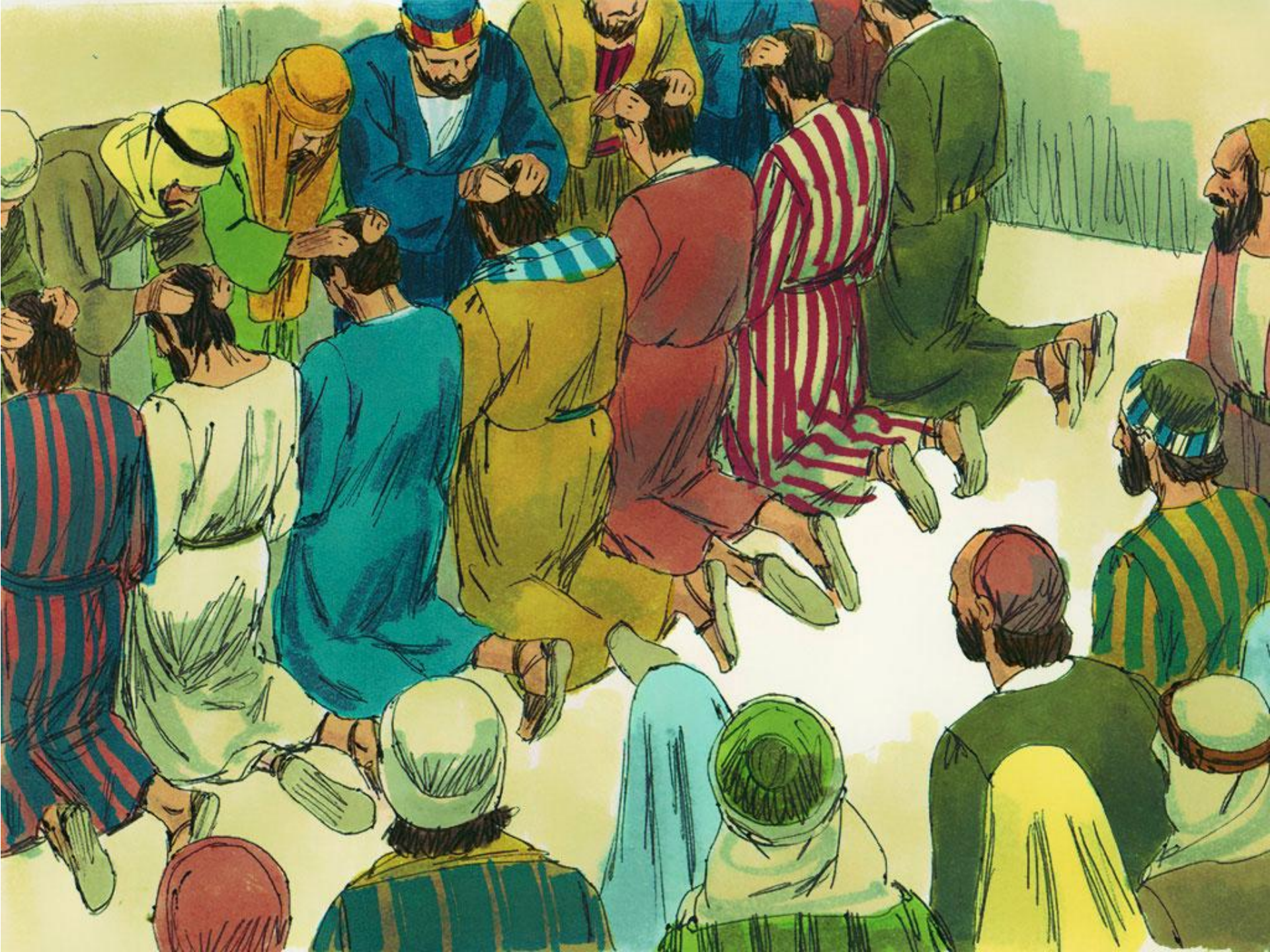
3.) You probably have not been flogged for following Jesus, but how have you been persecuted by unbelievers?

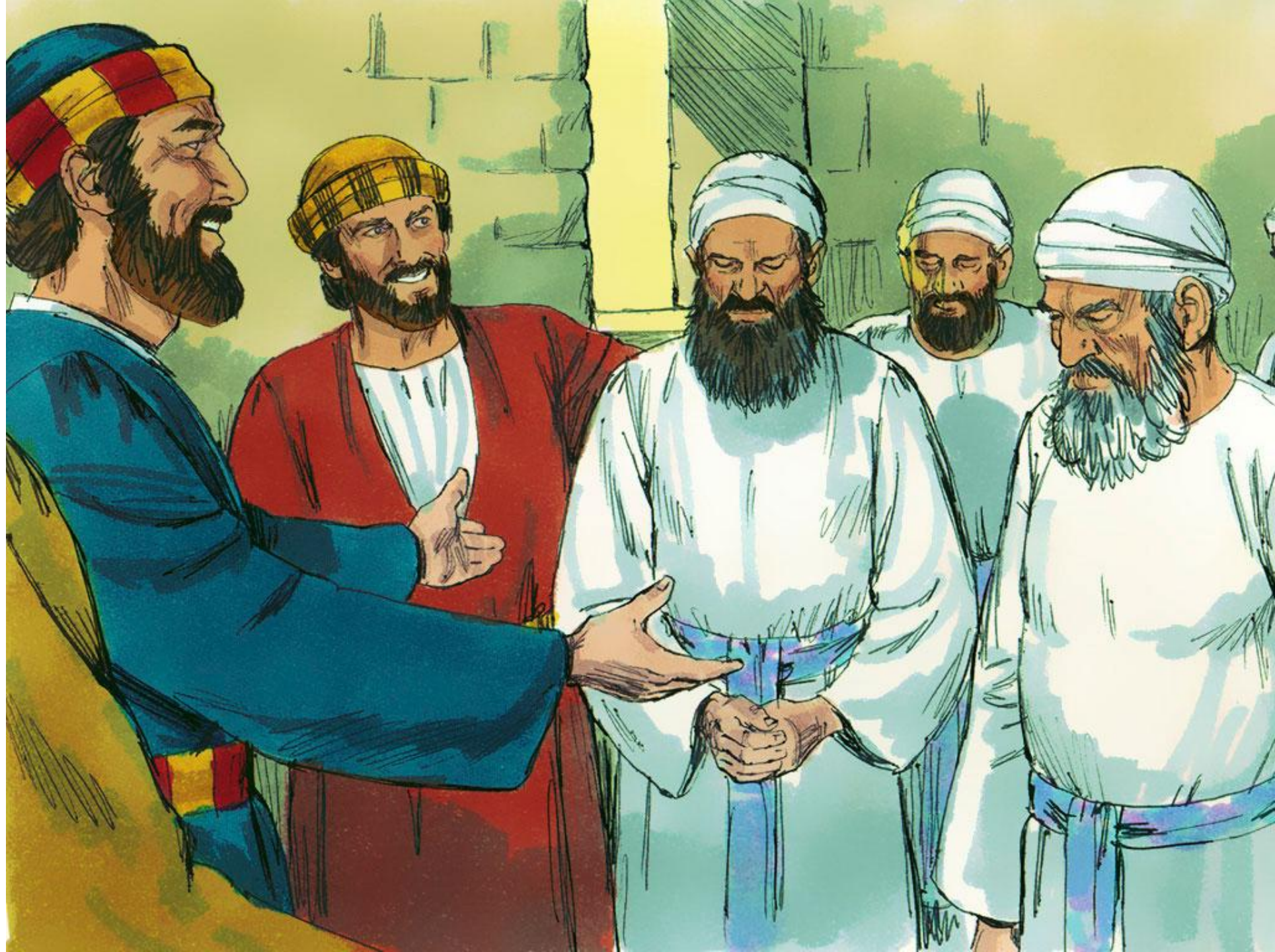


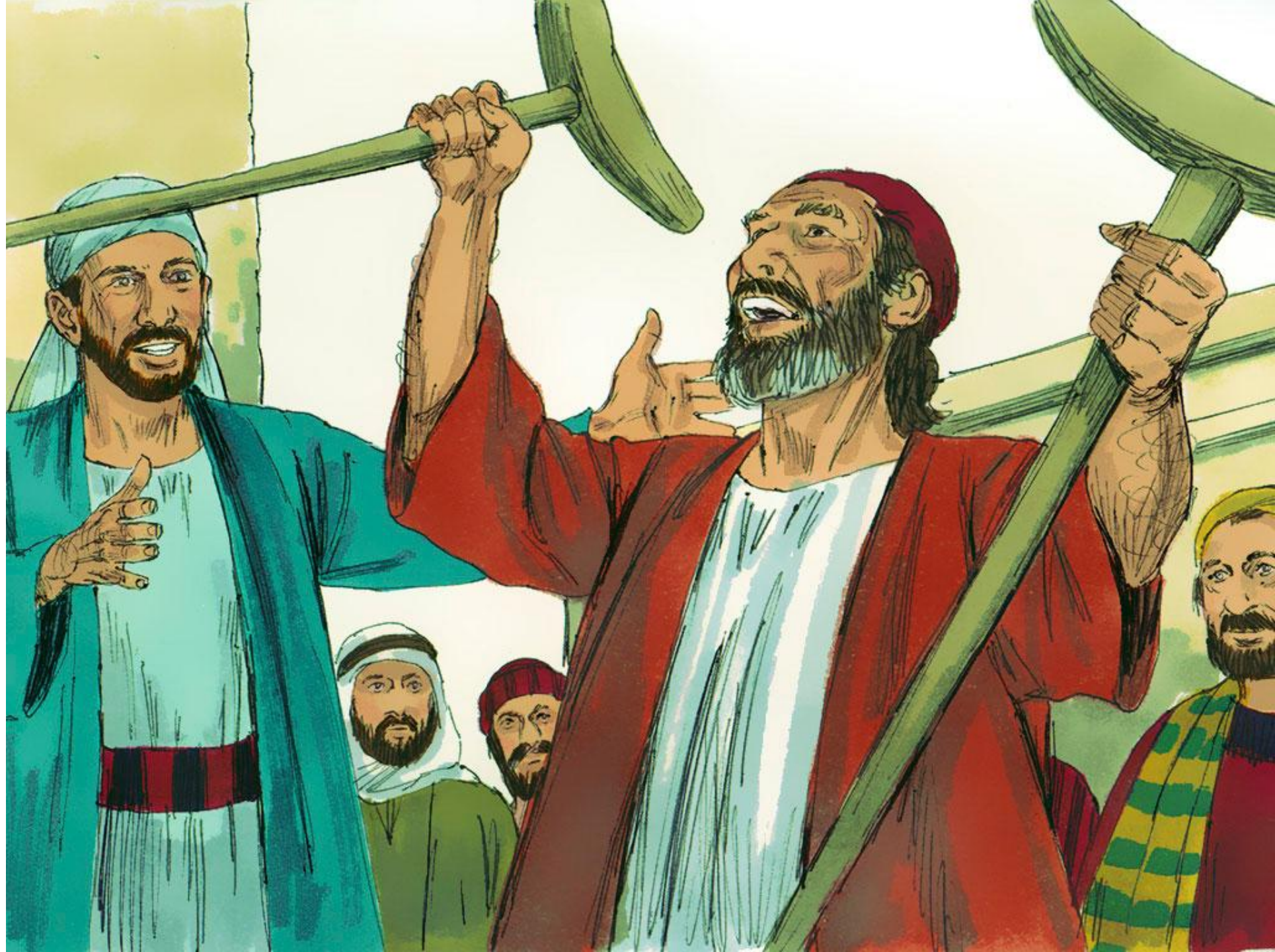
OVERVIEW: Acts 6 – 7:53



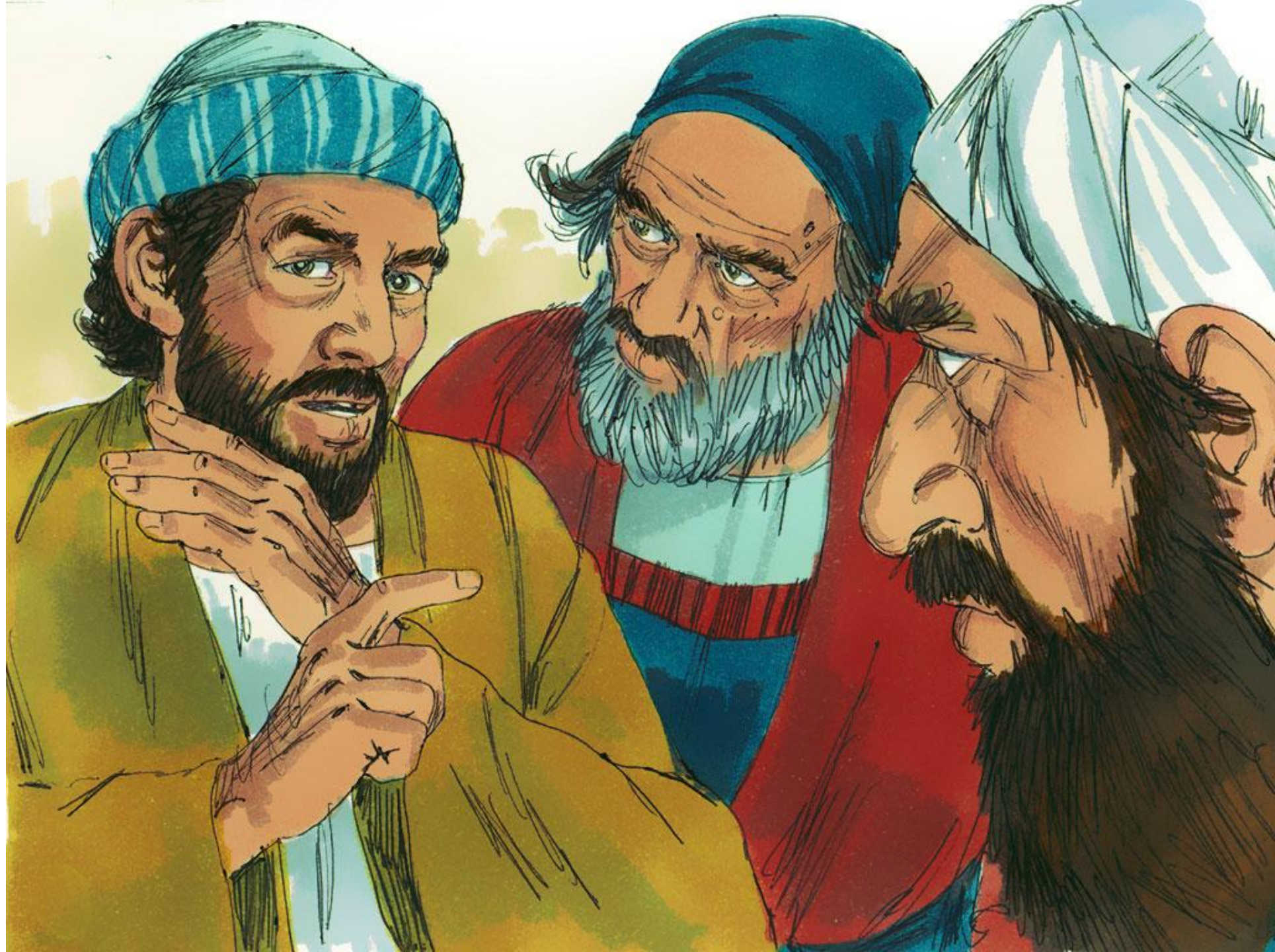




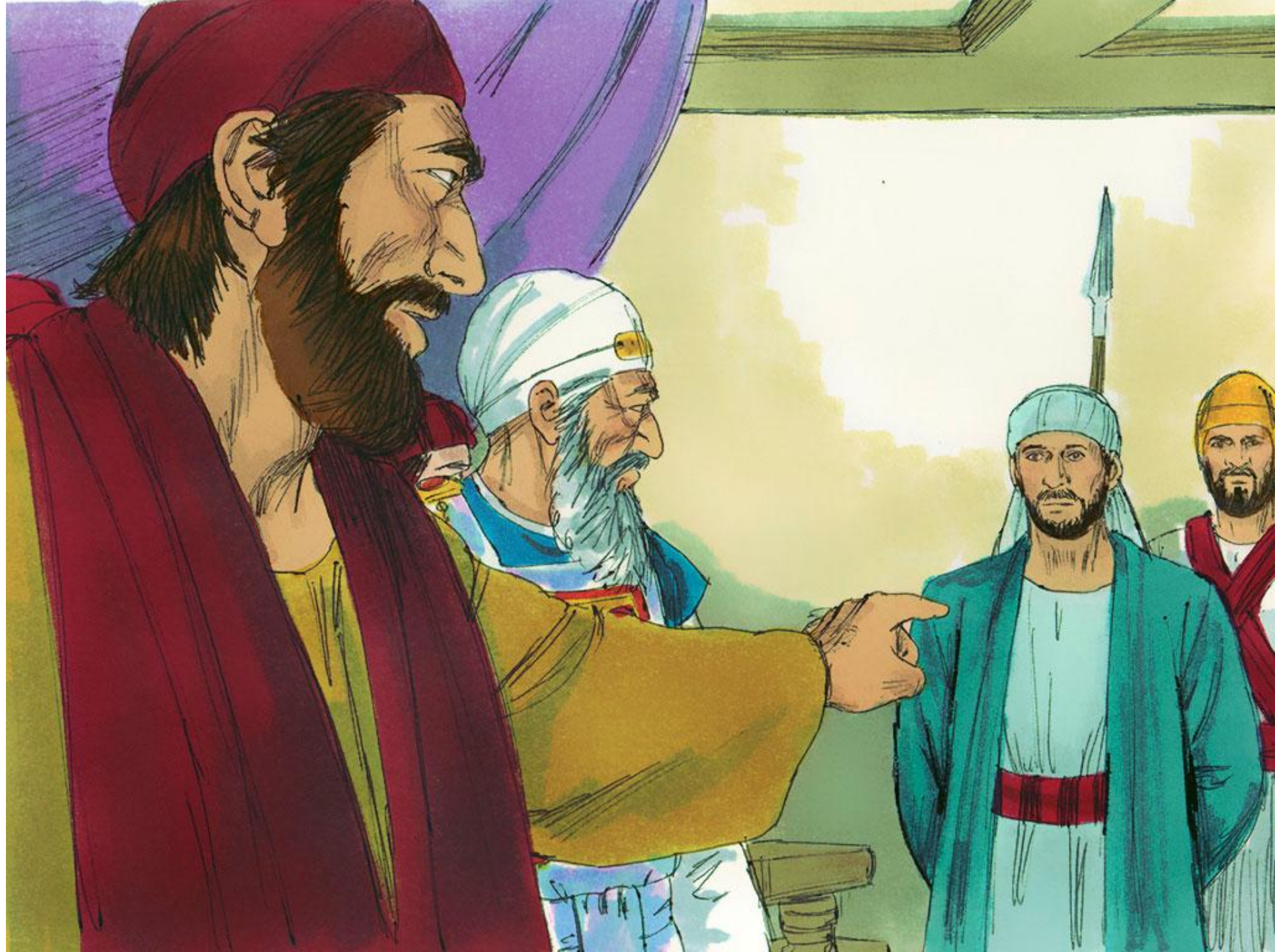


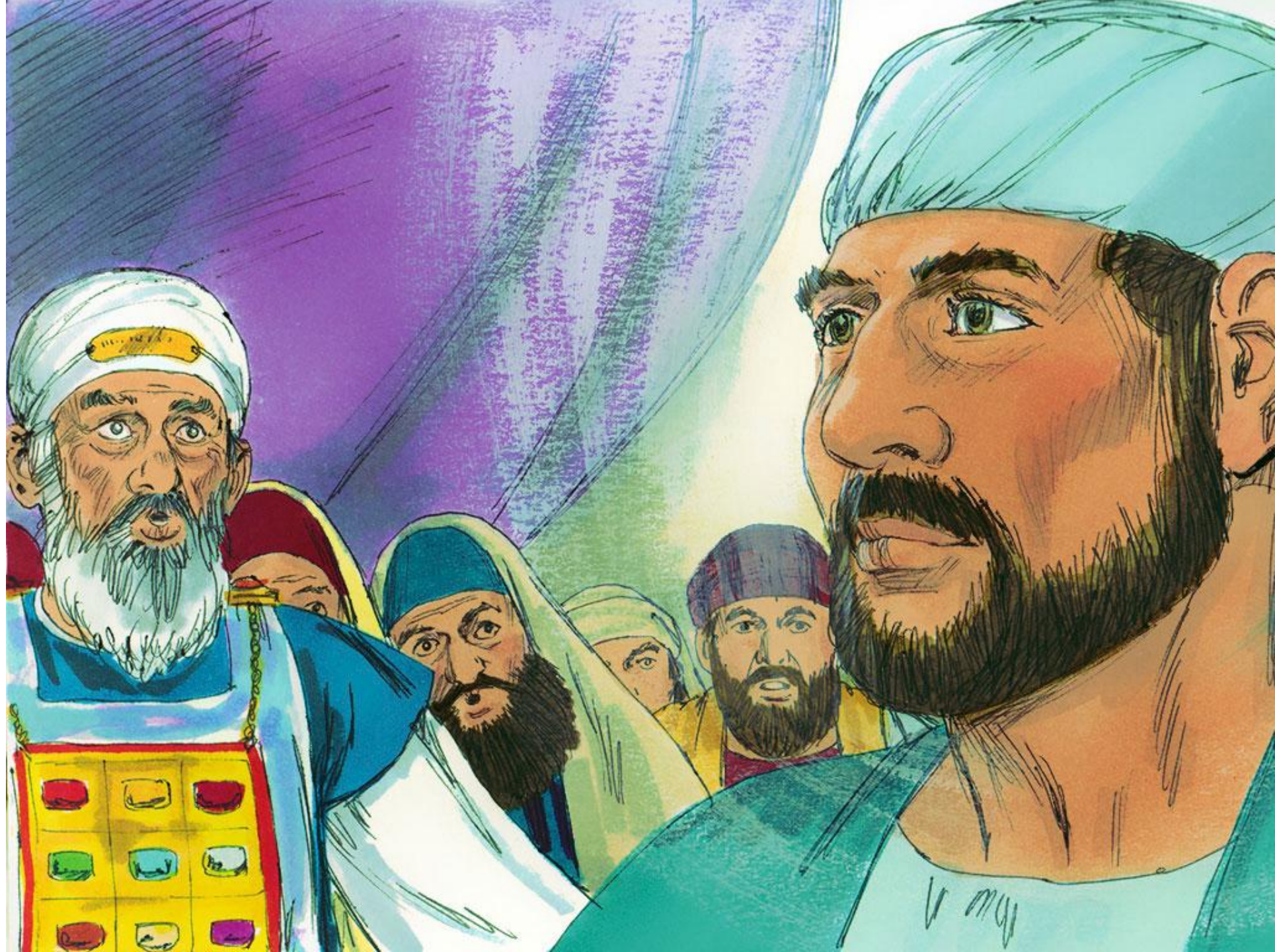














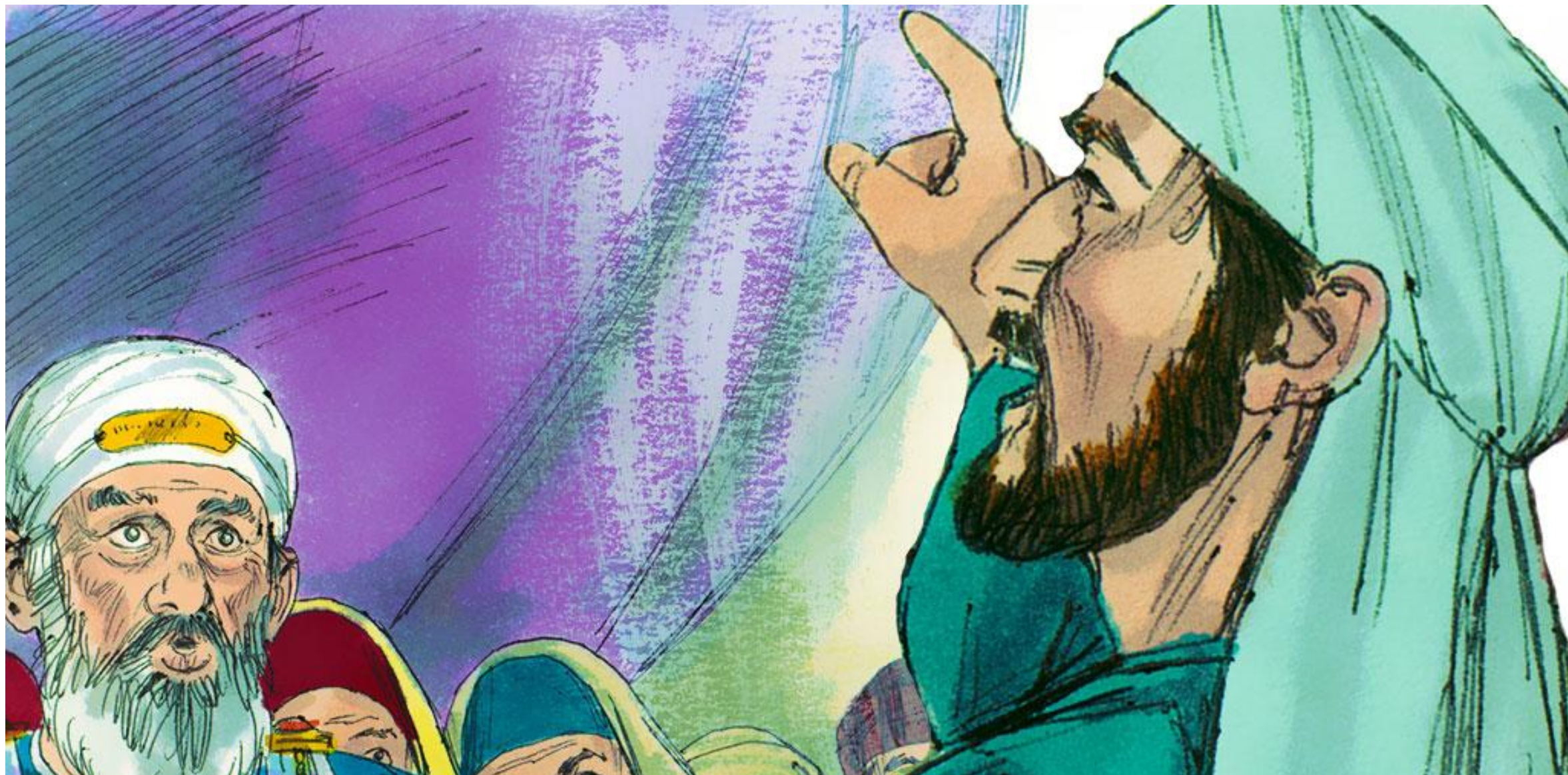
READ: Acts 7:54-8:1a

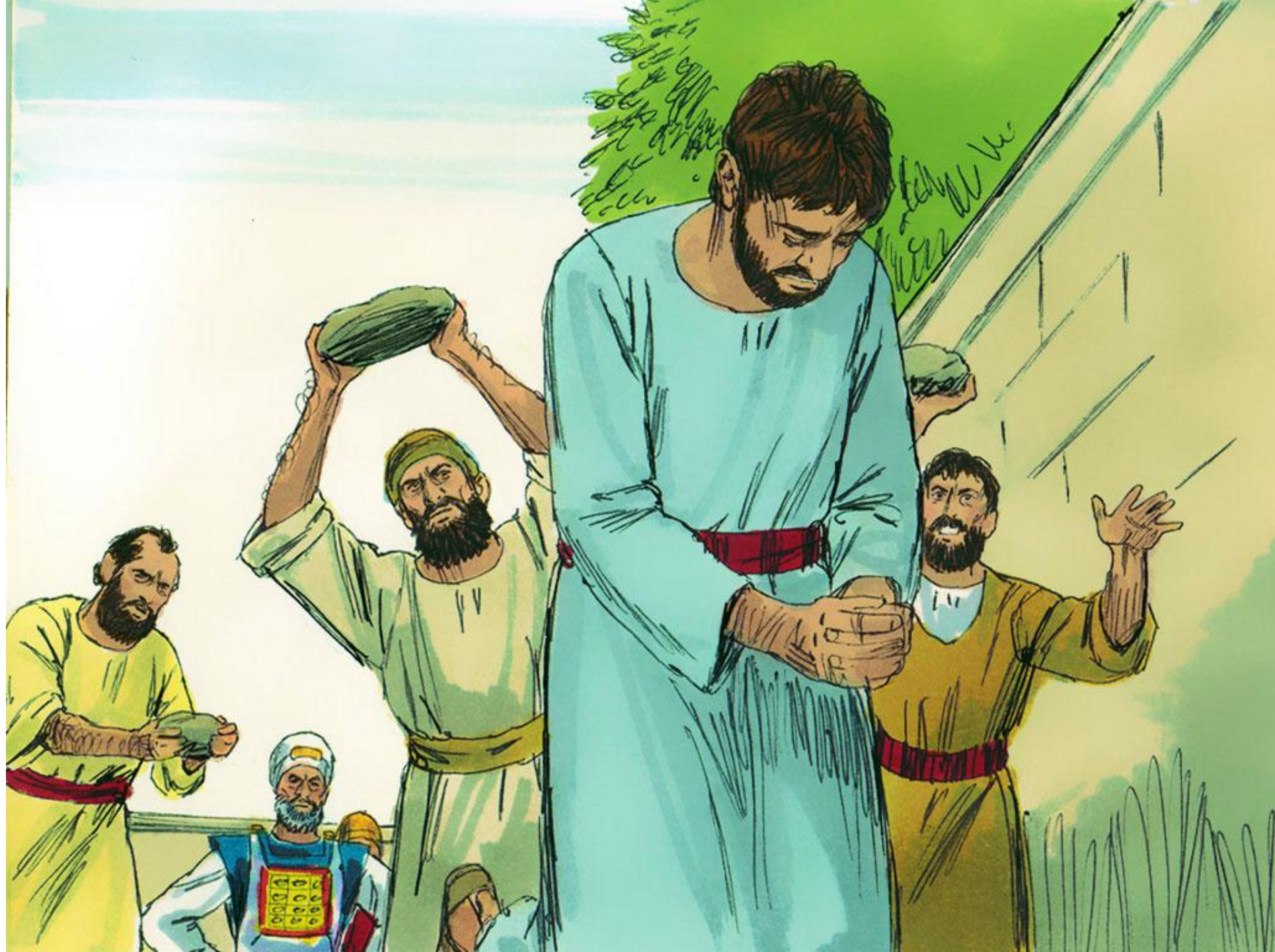


1.) What message did the Jewish leaders absolutely refuse to tolerate (v. 56,57)?



- They could not accept the proclamation that Jesus is the Christ





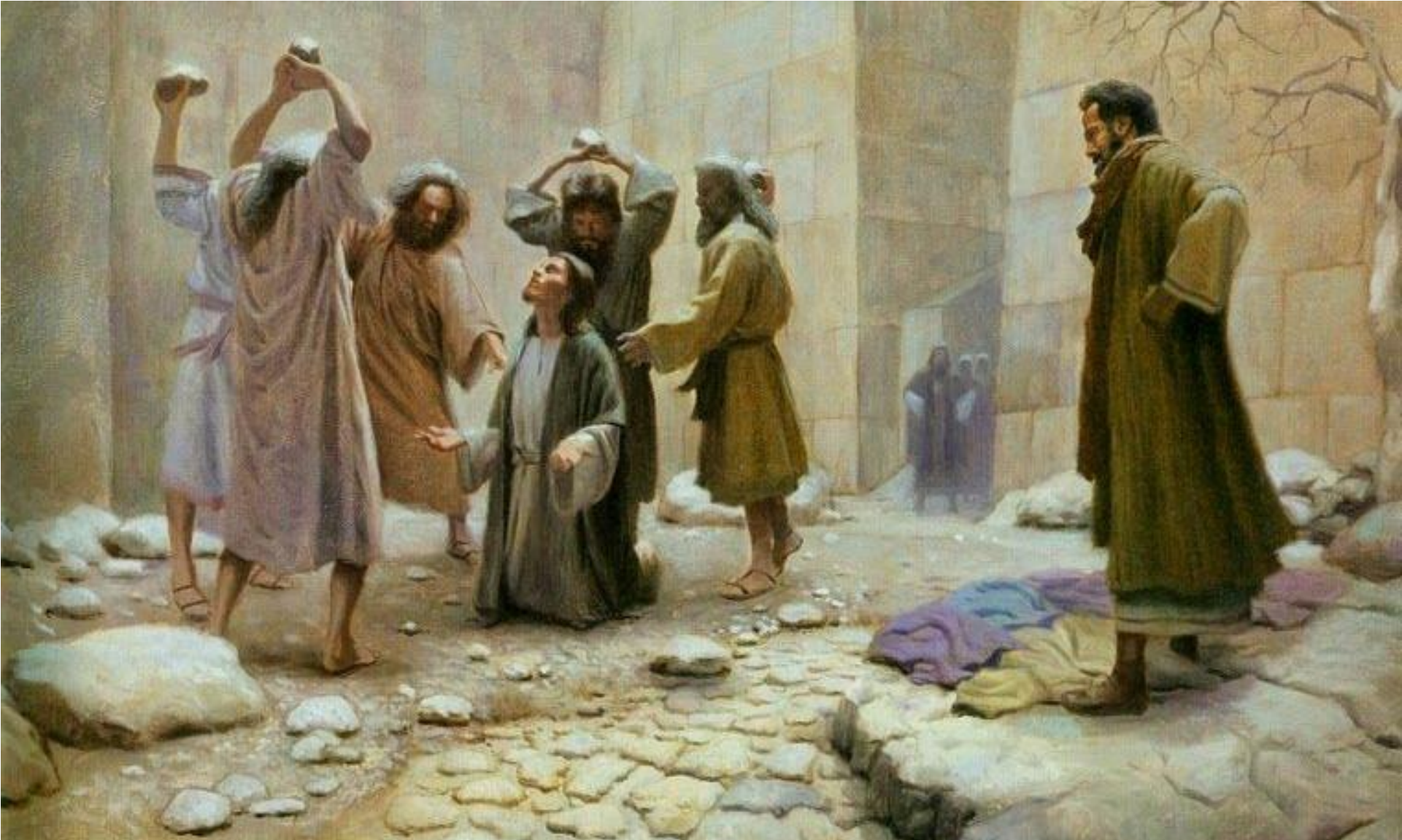
2.) Why do Stephen's words sound familiar?



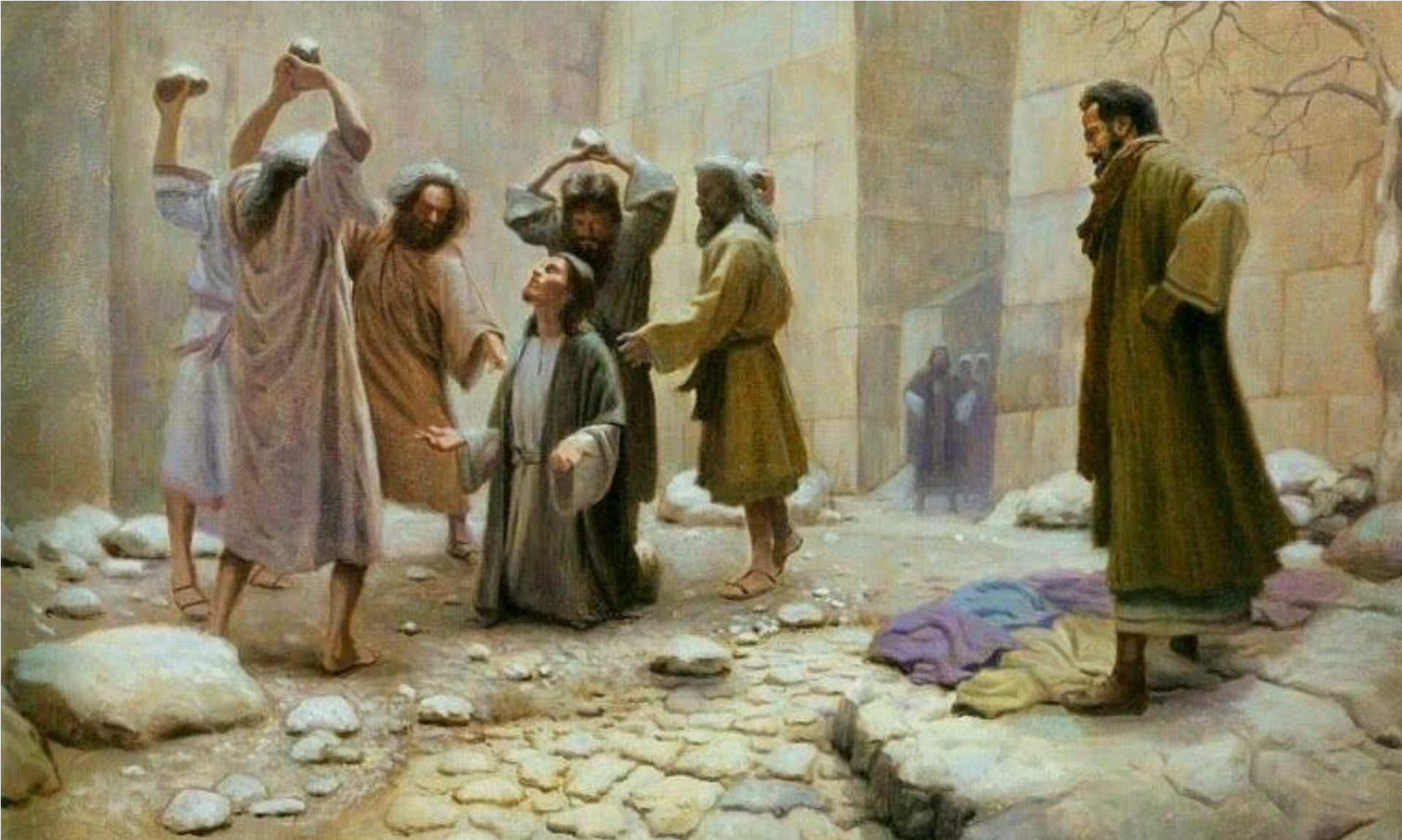
- Jesus so prayed and did the same as he was executed



3.) What does it mean that the coats were laid at the feet of Saul?



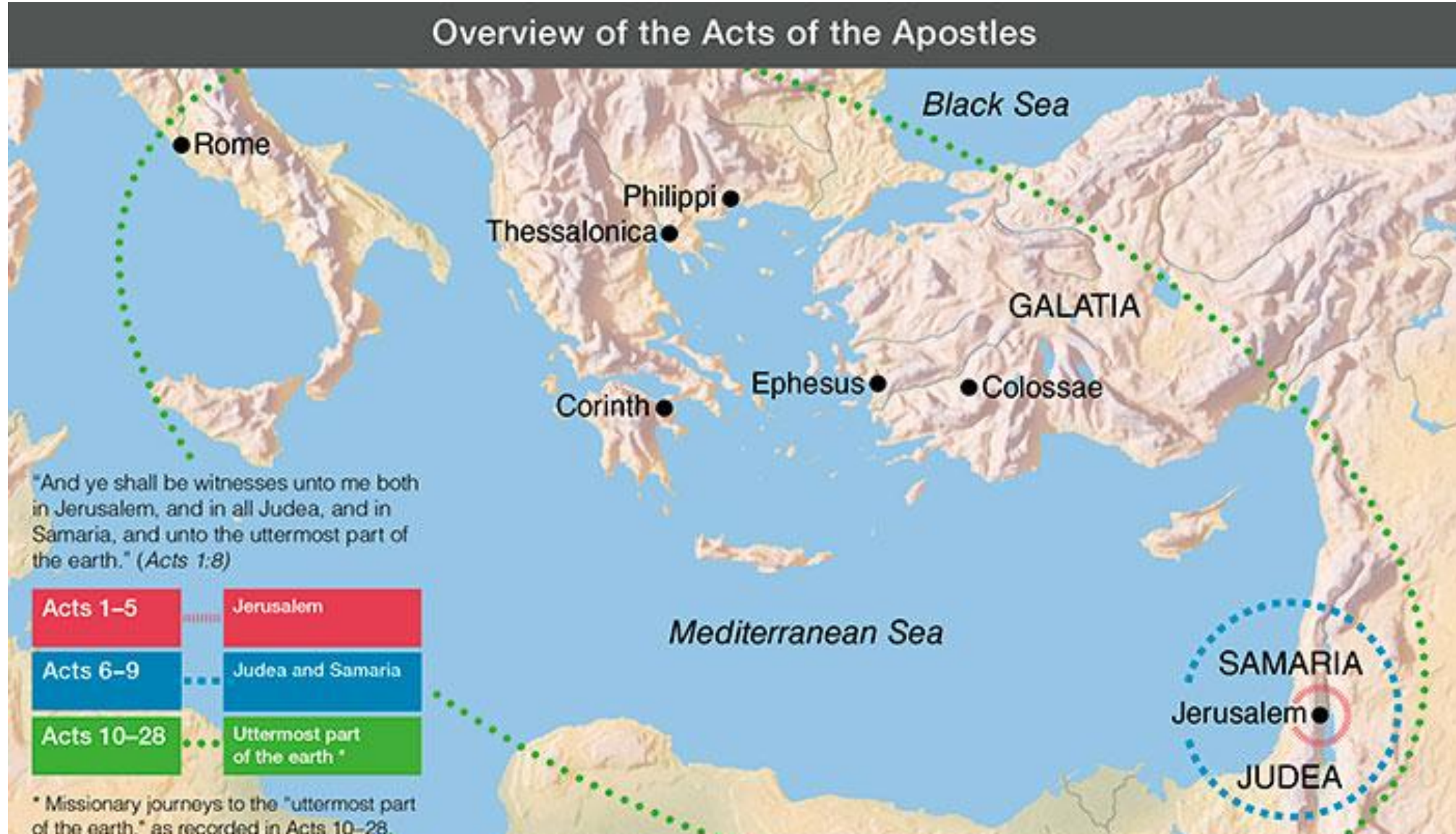
- It means he was the “supervisor” of Stephen’s execution



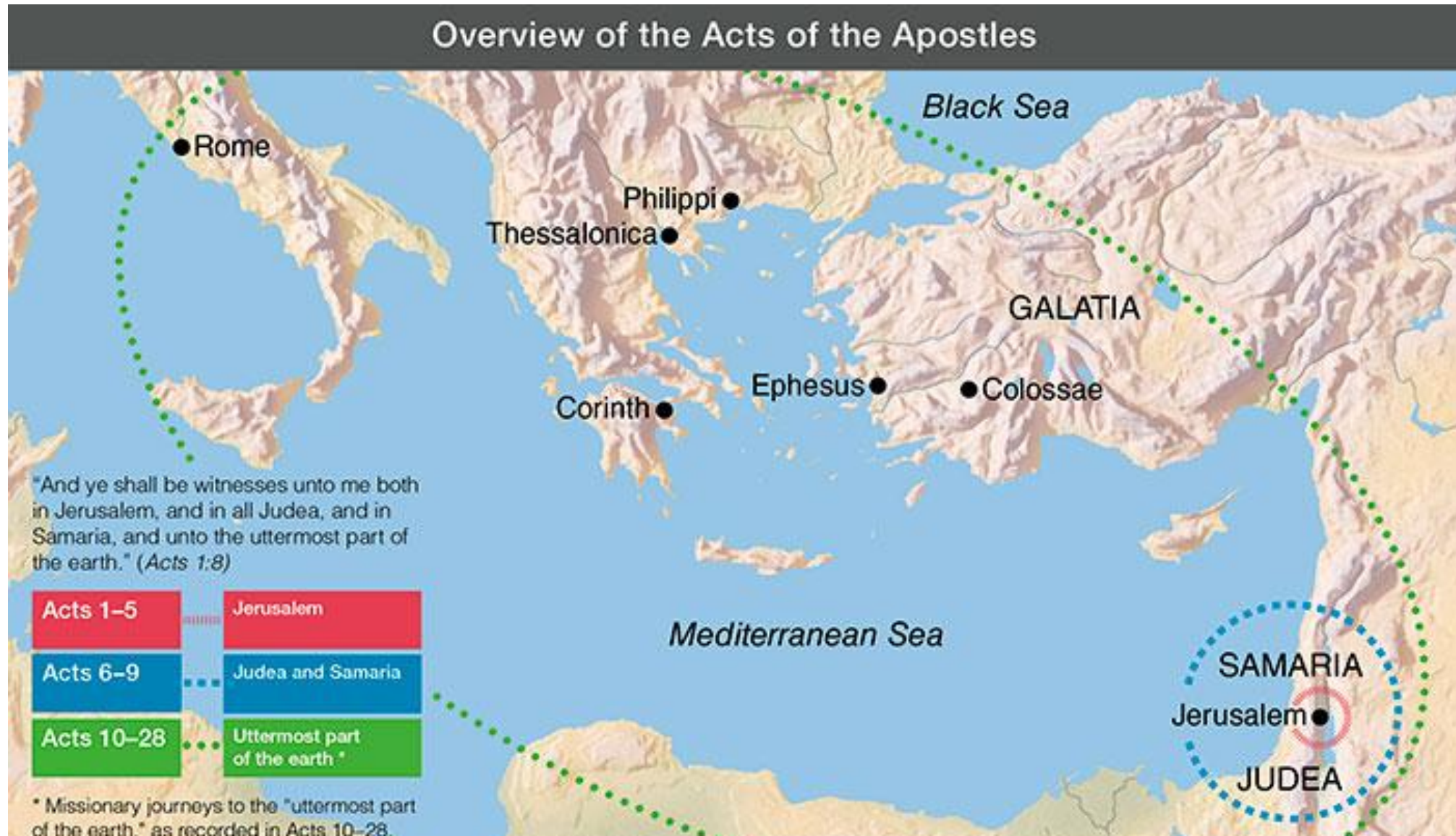
- From that day on Saul made it his mission to violently persecute the church



4.) What was the result of Saul's persecution (8:4)?



- They spread the word wherever they went

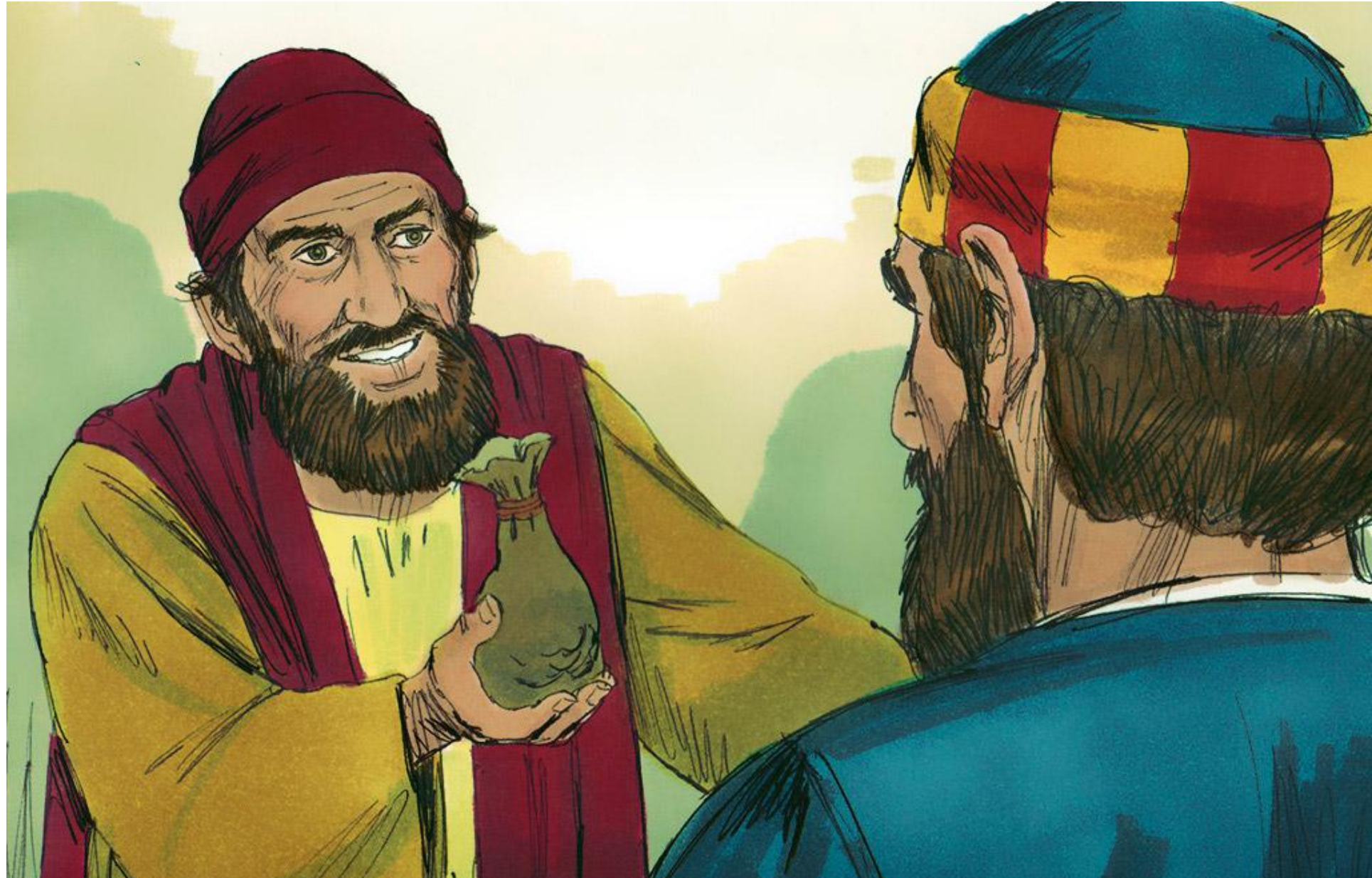




to the
ENDS of the
EARTH

OVERVIEW: Acts 8:9-25





READ: Acts 8:26-40



1.) Why is it important for us as Christ's witnesses to have a solid grasp of the Scriptures (vv. 34-35)?



- So we're always ready to explain them to others, pointing to Jesus at the heart of Scripture



2.) Our standard practice is to baptize infants and then instruct them in the Word. Based on an example like the Ethiopian eunuch, what should be our practice with adults?



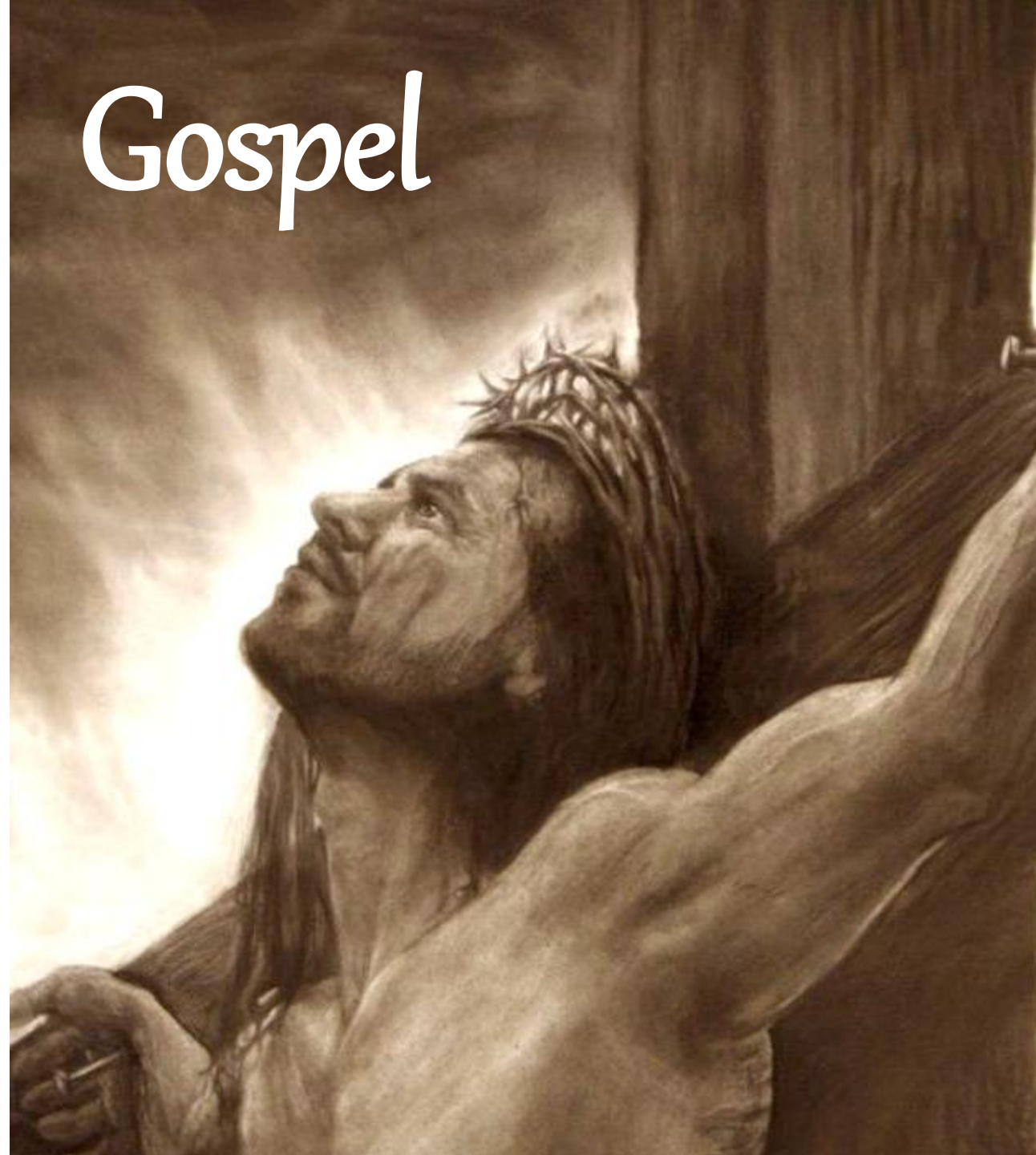
- Typically we teach adults the basics truths of the Word and then baptize them.



LAW



Gospel



LAW

- God's commands, threats, punishments...
 - God hates hypocritical piety
 - We must obey God rather than men
 - The preaching of the gospel must be the church's highest priority
 - Be ever ready to share the word of God

GOSPEL

- God's mercy, forgiveness, goodness, and promises...
 - God will preserve us in faith despite even the most bitter persecution and death
 - The Holy Spirit gives the gifts and courage needed to share the gospel
 - God will give us the words to say when we stand before the authorities on his account
 - We share the message and God changes hearts

For Next Time...

- Read
 - Acts ch. 9:1-31
 - Complete reflection guide
- NO Memory Work!

