

Faith on Trial - Acts 6:8-7:53
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Stephen was a man of great character and courage. His preaching was powerful, and his defense of the faith was more so. After being confronted and the dragged in front of the Sanhedrin, Stephen had the opportunity to speak in front of the same group of people who called for the execution of Jesus. These men were the foremost religious teachers and scholars of the day, yet it is Stephen who teaches them how to read the Bible, and shows them the central message the should have found in the pages. His sermon reminds all of us that the story of the Bible, and every text has a basic goal, which when read and understood correctly will reveal our need for a savior and will point us to "The Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered.

The theological term for what Stephen used before the Sanhedrin is called hermeneutics - from a Greek root meaning "interpreter" or "interpret." Thus, hermeneutics is an interpretation. Merriam-Webster defines hermeneutics as "the study of the methodological principles of interpretation (as of the Bible)" and "a method or principle of interpretation."

Dr. Dane C. Ortlund of Crossway offers a few basic guidelines that inform the way that we should read any Bible text.

First, read with the assumption that Scripture is coherent. If it's inspired by God and inerrant, then there are no defects. Thus, if something doesn't make sense or seems contradictory, it is due to faulty understanding or lack of context, not biblical error, and probably requires more research.

Second, read any text with an awareness of where it fits within the broader biblical story. Ortlund compares reading a passage out of context to suddenly picking up a novel in the middle.

Third, Ortlund advises reading the Bible through the lens of Jesus. Jesus said that the Old Testament all points to Him (Luke 24:27, Luke 24:44; John 5:39, John 5:46). The Gospels are obviously about Jesus, and the rest of the New Testament points back to Him. Thus, the entire Bible points to Jesus and should be understood through the coming, arrival, redemption, and restoration of Christ.

Finally, Ortlund urges readers to approach the Bible prayerfully, asking God for wisdom.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Jeremiah 15	Jeremiah 16	Jeremiah 17	Jeremiah 18	Jeremiah 19	Jeremiah 20	Jeremiah 21

Reading from this past week: Acts 6:8-7:53

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 7:54-8:3

Family Worship

Song - *God the Uncreated One*

<https://youtu.be/rswH9CSyWHk>

Gospel Project

Unit: A Pattern of Disobedience

Story: God Takes Sin Seriously

Big Picture Question: What is the fair payment for sin?

Answer: The fair payment for sin is death.

Scripture: Ephesians 2

New City Catechism

Question #22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

Answer: That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin.

Verse: Hebrews 2:17

Scripture

Acts 6:8-7:53

- What made Stephen so bold? Why do we need this kind of boldness in the Gospel?
- When in front of the Sanhedrin, Stephen shares the overarching story of the Old Testament as one consistent story leading to an ultimate point. What is the big point of the story of the Bible and what are the key themes?
- Why is it important that we read and study the Bible, and why must we work to understand it correctly?
- Why is it important to remember that every story in the Bible is ultimately about Jesus and that every story in some way leads us to the Gospel?

Prayer

*Pray and give thanks for the men and women who have served our country in the military and for those who have given their lives for our freedom.

*Pray that we would be dedicated to faithful study of God's Word proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus from all of Scripture.