



“The Righteous One”

Acts 7:1-53 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction – Luke highlights Stephen’s ministry in two chapters in the book of Acts. Today we will look at his incredible speech to those who were making charges against him.

I. Stephen’s Ministry.

- A. Stephen was an exemplary disciple of Jesus.

- B. A Jewish sect brought charges against Stephen and brought him to the Sanhedrin to stand trial.

- C. The High Priest asked Stephen if the two charges against him are true.
 - 1. Are you speaking against the Temple?
 - 2. Are you speaking against the Law of Moses?
 - 3. Stephen answers with a long speech.

II. Stephen’s Speech.

- A. Stephen answers the first charge by reviewing the history of Israel to demonstrate that a Temple was unnecessary to worship God.

- B. Stephen answers the second charge by affirming that the Law of Moses was holy and good, but none of them were ever able to keep it.

- C. Stephen picks up a repeated pattern in Israel’s history. They persecute the people God sent to save them.

III. The Climax of Stephen’s Speech.

- A. Stephen addresses the source of their problem – their pride and hard-heartedness.

- B. Then Stephen points to the solution to their problem – “The Righteous One.”

- C. How do you fulfill the Law?

- D. Look at Jesus, God’s final deliverer. He is “The Righteous One.”

Conclusion.