



## ***“Meaningful Suffering”***

Acts 7:54-60 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon  
October 6, 2024

***Introduction*** – Luke records Stephen’s speech from eyewitness testimony and how it resulted in his martyrdom. Today we will look at how Stephen responded to his suffering that gave it meaning.

### ***I. The Eyewitness to Stephen’s Speech.***

- A. Luke records the facts about what happened from eyewitness testimony.
- B. Where did Luke get his information about what happened to Stephen?

### ***II. The Response to Stephen’s Speech.***

- A. The religious leaders were “cut to the heart.”
- B. Literally, “cut to the heart” means to be pierced or stabbed.
- C. Figuratively, “cut to the heart” means to be stabbed emotionally with a deep feeling of sharp pain.
- D. Every time it is used in the book of Acts it describes someone’s response to the Word of God.
  - 1. Peter’s two sermons.
  - 2. Stephen’s speech.

- E. It describes the response when someone hears and understands the Gospel.
- F. There are only two responses when you really understand the Gospel.
  - 1. Repentance leading to belief.
  - 2. Offense leading to rage.

### ***III. How Stephen Changed the World.***

- A. Stephen changed the world by how he suffered.
  - 1. How he responded to the insults thrown at him:
  - 2. How he spoke while on trial for his life:
  - 3. How he responded while they were killing him:
- B. What’s the secret of how Stephen was able to respond to his suffering this way?
- C. How Stephen’s suffering changed the world.

### ***Conclusion.***