

ACTS 6:7-7:1; 7:51-8:1

The Church Goes Viral

Warm-Up Questions:

- ▶ What's one of your favorite "viral" videos you've seen online?
- ▶ Share a way you have felt some sort of suffering for the sake of Christ.

READ: 6:7-7:1; 7:51-8:1

I. The Church Goes Viral: Stephen's WORDS

- ▶ Read 6:8, 15; 7:51-53, 60. Describe what this man Stephen was like?
- ▶ How did Stephen share the gospel from vs. 52-53? What is the significance of Jesus being called "the Righteous One"?
- ▶ Describe how the gospel is sweet in your life?

II. The Church Goes Viral: Stephen's SUFFERING

- ▶ Read John 16:33; Phil. 1:29; 1 Peter 2:21. How should Christians think about suffering?
- ▶ How was Stephen prepared for the suffering he received? Do you most Christians are prepared for suffering? Share how this makes you feel personally?
- ▶ How was Stephen's suffering used for God's purposes? What does this mean regarding what you suffer for Christ's sake?

III. The Church Goes Viral: Stephen's DEFENDER

- ▶ Read 7:55-56. Describe what Stephen saw and how it must have made him feel? What was the significance of Jesus "standing"?
- ▶ How does enjoying Jesus as our defender, the one who knows us, sees us, loves and defends us, change the way we endure suffering?

"Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason (I do not accept the authority of popes and councils because they have contradicted each other), my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen."

- Martin Luther

Five "Sola's" of the Reformation

- Scripture Alone
- Christ Alone
- Grace Alone
- Faith Alone
- To God's Glory Alone

Go Deeper

Discuss the theological significance of each "Sola" above.

TAKE ACTION

How did this passage make you feel? What desires did it give you? What is one action step you need to take in response?