

# Equipped for Ministry

**Acts 5-7**

# EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY

1. Conviction about the risen Christ
2. Prayer for boldness
3. Courage
4. Walking with Christ
5. LOVE

## Chapter 5: BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE MOTIVES ....

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is a reminder to us today that

- God sees the heart ([1 Samuel 16:7](#)),
- He hates sin (hypocrisy, double-mindedness, lying, deceit)
- He is concerned for the purity of His church ([1 Corinthians 11](#); [1 John 5](#)).
- Sometimes we are concerned far too much with what people see and think about us more than what God sees and thinks
- Do we want to really be like Jesus or simply appear to be like Jesus?

# Holy and Unholy Alliances in Marriage

Holy Alliances	Unholy Alliances
Abraham and Sarah (Gen 12, 1 Peter 3)	Adam and Eve (Gen 3)
Elkanah and Hannah (1Samuel 1:8)	David and Michal (2 Samuel 6)
Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4)	Isaac and Rebecca (Genesis 24)
Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18)	Lot and wife (Genesis 19)
Noah and Wife (Genesis 6)	Nabal and Abigail (1Samuel 25)
Joseph and Mary (Luke 10)	Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5)
	Job and wife (Job 2)

# Apostles in Jail and the Wisdom of Gamaliel: 5:17-42



Gamaliel,  
grandson of  
Hillel  
Paul's Mentor  
School of Hillel  
Vs School of  
Shammai

“You will only find yourself fighting against God”

# Acts 6 and 7: First deacons, first Martyr

- Hebraic versus Grecian Jews
- The apostles' wisdom
- All those selected were Grecian, why?

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- The church grew-Spiritual and extra-spiritual needs were being met
- Persecution-Synagogue of the Freedmen. Was Saul a member?

# Different Responses to Gods word in Acts

Person	Passage in Acts	Response
Sanhedrin	Acts 7: 54-55	Gnashed their teeth
Elymas (Bar Jesus)	Acts 13: 6-8	“Dog in the manger”
Felix	Acts 24: 24-27	Convenience
Agrippa II	Acts 26: 26-30	Time
Ethiopian Eunuch	Acts 8: 25-30	What should I do?
The Jailer	Acts 16: 25-30	What must I do?
Apollos	Acts 18: 24-26	...more adequately

# Persecution of Christians



By 325, an estimated 7 million were Christians.  
About 2 million killed for the faith



Misunderstood



Matthew 5:11-12 *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*



# Chapter 6: church organisation

The seven deacons/servers :

Prochorus: Nephew of Stephen, later Bishop of Nicomedia, martyred in Antioch.

Stephen: The first martyr

Nicolaus: Founder of the Nicolaitans, heretical sect condemned in Revelations

Philip: Preached in Samaria, converted Ethiopian Eunuch

Nicanor: Cyprian Jew, died a martyr in 76AD

Parmenus: Died a martyr in Macedonia, 98AD during Trajan's persecution

Timon: Hellenized Jew (Judaism +Greek Culture), became Bishop of Greece. Martyred with fire

Stephen's discipling made him like Jesus

JESUS

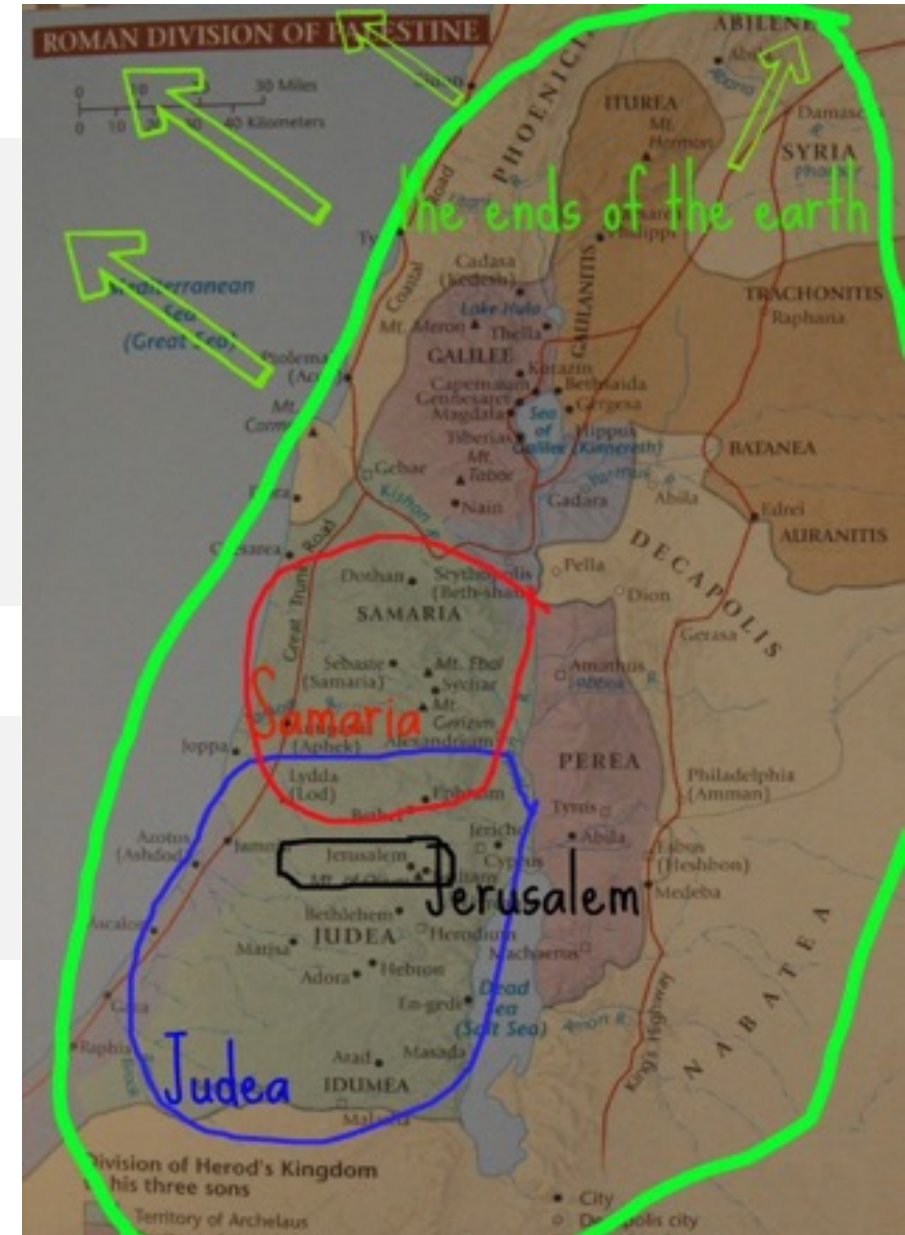


JESUS	STEPHEN
Speeches: condemning hypocrisy and hardheartedness: Matthew 5, Matthew 23	Speech: Similar Words. Longest speech in Acts
Accused of saying He will destroy the temple	Same accusation
Jesus is "sitting" at the right hand of God: Matt26:64; Mark 14: 62; Hebrews 1:3....	Saw Jesus "standing" at the right hand of God
"Lord Forgive them!"	"Lord Forgive them!"
"Lord receive my spirit"	"Lord receive my spirit"
Death and Resurrection most significant event	Death served notice that others were willing to die for the Gospel..

Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the world

Acts 7: Stephen Martyred. They listened for 53 verses but could not take the introduction of Jesus..."stiff-necked" people

Acts 8: Enter Saul of Tarsus from the Province of Cilicia!



# Would you die for a lie?



## **Peter and Paul**

Both martyred in Rome - 66 AD under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified,

## **Andrew**

Preached in Soviet Union. Crucified in Greece,

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## **Philip**

Converted the wife of a Roman proconsul who brutally killed him.

## **Bartholomew**

Martyred in Armenia after converting King

## **James**

the son of Alphaeus. stoned and then clubbed to

## **Simon the Zealot**

Persia. Killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

## **Matthias**

Burned in Syria.

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6. Luke 9: 24---Commitment