

## Notes - Book of Acts Study, Part 31 – Wed, September 9, 2020

Acts 6:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

<sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue...who began to argue with Stephen.

Acts 6:15

<sup>15</sup> All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

*The way we handle stress and opposition says more about our faith than anything we profess on Sunday morning!*

*If we act and react like the world – we have nothing to offer the world.*

Luke 22:47-53

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

<sup>49</sup> When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

*Jesus understood God had a larger plan.*

John 18:11

<sup>11</sup> Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

*Jesus was more concerned with God's greater purpose!*

*Jesus healed the man who had come to arrest Him!*

*With God, there is always more going on than meets the eye!*

*Jesus knew He had been given the ministry of reconciliation.*

Romans 5:10

*<sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

*We are called to the same ministry of reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18

*<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation*

*God loves sinners*

*We cannot preach reconciliation to a culture we are cursing!*

Matthew 10:16

*<sup>16</sup> "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.*

*We will only stir the pot when we fight in the flesh.*

*We have been given the ministry of reconciliation!*