

# ACTS

## CHAPTER 7:9-37

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 169

TITLE:

### A WITNESSING CHURCH - Part 3

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**“

When Jesus Began *His Church Building Endeavor, He made a Startling Announcement;*

#### Matthew 4:18-19

As Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. :19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

### “At the Call, - Came the Call”

*The Lord uses His Sheep to produce for Him, more Sheep*

Mark 1:17

He said... "Come after Me,  
and I will *make (poy-eh'-o: to shape, to mold)*  
you to become *fishers* of men."  
*haleeyoos-halidzo, or*  
“salted fishermen”

**Our lifestyle (Ethos) is to make the world thirsty for God**

**I Want to State Clearly**

*that this message is one that is based upon my experience with the Lord in the world.*

from 1980 -1991

“None of the names have been changed to protect the innocent because there are none innocent, but the Lord”

When Looking to be used of God *remember this simple rule,*

“Grow where you’re Planted”

The very place that you're in right now is the place that you are intended to grow

## **The Vacation Dislocation**

I can't stand the heat, the air, the crowds, the ants,  
"I feel the Lord Calling Me to the Rocky Mountains, To the rolling Hills of northern California, To the Shores of Maui..."

**It's not the Lifestyles of the  
Rich and Famous, But of the Righteous and Faithful.**

Daniel 12:3

**Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who turn many to righteousness shall shine like the stars forever and ever.**

### The Goals of Witnessing

- Show them the love of God *Pathos*
- Tell them He can be known personally, *Ethos*
- Remind them that they need to decide for Him, *Logos*

### The Human Nature

Stephen is going to draw attention to the fact that Israel was guilty of Rejecting her God-sent deliverers and that it is a detailed message, a behind the scenes narrative by the Holy Spirit.

## **1.) The Power of a Witnessing Church vv. 9-10**

**“ But God was with Him (Joseph) “**

John 16:7

**"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your expedient (soom-fer'-o, advancement) that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (parakletos, encourage) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**

The Holy Spirit is Our Power

**John 14:26**

**"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, #1, He will teach you all things, and #2, bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

The Holy Spirit is our Instructor

**John 16:12-14**

**"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. :13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. :14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.**

- Give God a Usable tool, *be filled with Holy Spirit & Bible*
- Ask the Lord for Divine Favor, *Be dependent upon Him*
- Ask the Lord for Divine Wisdom, *Be open to Him*
- Ask Him to Deliver Them *into your hand, Rest & Watch*

**John 7:37-39**

... Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. :38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (**koilia (koy-lee'-ah, the deepest, innermost being or vitals)**) shall flow (torrents) rivers of living water."... **39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. ( **A direct reference to the "coming upon "epi" experience " of the Holy Spirit for ministry.)**

**2.) The Patience of a Witnessing Church vv. 11-16**

Stephen Uses Some *witnessing finesse here.*

Joseph is a type of Jesus Christ, *rejected at His first coming, He was received at His second coming.*

1. *He was greatly loved by His father,*
2. **He was sold for silver at the going rate of a slave,**
3. *He was hated by his brothers,*
4. **He was envied by his brothers,**
5. *He was humbled as a servant,*
6. **He was falsely accused,**
7. *He was exalted to honor.*
8. **He was NOT recognized by his brothers at his first coming.**
9. *They did recognize Him the second time.*
10. **During their rejection, he marries a gentile bride.**

The Insinuation is;

*"the patriarchs treated Joseph the same way they had treated Jesus  
(Remember That When Witnessing,  
Not Everyone Sees a Response Right Away)*

**1 Corinthians 3:6-8**

**Paul say's** "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. :7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God is who gives the increase. :8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

**#1 Some People Will** *think you're Nuts for Being a Christian*

**John 15:18**

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. :19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

**John 15:25**

"But this happened that the WORD might be fulfilled which is written in their law, " They hated Me without a cause." *-ps. 35,69*

**# 2 They will Resist You** *because they are resisting Him.*

John said;

**John 3:19**

"This is the condemnation **or Verdict**, that **The Light** has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**James 2:26**

**That the body without the spirit is Dead !!!**

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

The "natural man" (the earthly man) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned....

**THE BIBLE SAY'S**

**"You are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!  
You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.**

A Warning

**Luke 6:26**

**Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.**

**3.) The Hope** *of a Witnessing Church* *vv. 17-19*

## Four hundred years

*had passed from the time that the promise was given to Abraham.*

Adversity Prepares us *for witnessing.*

**Example, Job...  
God's Chosen Servant**

THE WORLD IS WATCHING OUR TRIALS

Romans 8:28-39

### 4.) The Knowledge of a Witnessing Church vv. 20-22

Verse 22

#### BACKGROUND

Ramesses II was pharaoh during the bulk of the Israeli oppression, He had no sons born to him. **Moses was the adopted son of Miss Ramesses, the daughter.** That placed Moe as the next in line for the Pharaohship

Moses would have been a Chemist, an Architect, a Mathematician, a Civil Engineer, and an Astronomer, **(those are the people we work with)**

• the Egyptians determined that we are 93 million miles from the sun • embalming and fabric dyeing that lasted thousands of years.

Stephen's Point is Right Here

#### Israel's rejection of Moses & Jesus

1. He was nearly slain as a child,
2. *he refused the world that he might save his people,*
3. **he was rejected at the first,**
4. *he was a shepherd of sheep,*
5. **he married a gentile bride during his rejection,**
6. *he was received by his brothers the second time,*
7. **he delivered his people from bondage by the blood of a lamb**

### 5.) The Timing of a Witnessing Church vv. 23-28

God Opens Doors

In Witnessing to the World

### 1 Corinthians 2:13

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. :14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

God Opens Hearts *evangelistic praying*

#### Acts 13:48

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

#### John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: :28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. :29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

I Believe America is now *experiencing the closing of the Door (a 3rd world Nation)*

## 6.) The Call of a Witnessing Church vv. 29-34

When God Witnesses, He uses US

*we are to be the one who burns for Him, now He speaks through us...*

(The Message was exactly what I needed)  
THAT'S INSPIRATION OF THE SPIRIT

HOW MUCH EASIER IT IS TO FOLLOW  
*Let Him Send You, Let Him Guide You*

*The Air Force Thunderbirds*

#### John 15:16

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,

## 7.) The Goal of a Witnessing Church vv. 35-37

#### John 16:13

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. :14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

## Verse 37

### Matthew 5:13

**"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**

### Matthew 5:15-16

"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Matt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

### 2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you."

### Hosea 5:15

**I will return again to My place until they acknowledge their sin. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me...**and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

*The Rejection of Messiah by Israel (By You) has led them into captivity and tribulation throughout history... Jesus said to...*

### Luke 13:34-35

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!  
:35 "See! Your house is left to you desolate;