

ACTS

CHAPTER 7:37-43

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 170

TITLE:

A WITNESSING CHURCH - Part 4 of 7

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.**“

Pentecost *marked The Birthday of the Church !!!*

*God put the **Birthday Candles** upon each of the believers there
in the form of “divided tongues like of fire”*

Announcing the “Coming Upon” Experience of the Holy Spirit

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.**“

Sharing Jesus Christ is the most “UN-natural” thing to do. Many of us feel antiquated, we have feelings of unworthiness, coupled with the fear of rejection!

Paul Said;

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that are perishing foolishness!

-1 Corinthians 1:18-19

Stephen was witnessing before *an audience of the most difficult kind...* “Those who had been ‘*inoculated*’ against God with just a little dose of religion

They Are UN-Willing to Receive;

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: :4 In whom the god of this world (**The Devil**) has blinded the minds of them **which do not believe**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, **should shine unto them.**

The Streets, City, County Are Our Business

1 Corinthians 1:21

.....it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

The Audience and their Response, is God's Business

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, **:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

Acts 13:48

...But as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

We Need to Remove Ourselves from the Conflict

Why is it uncomfortable to do, why do we experience an elevated heart-rate? Why does it seem so UN-Natural... Because it is SUPER-Natural and God has chosen you and I to enter into His work.

Remember... Pentecost *is a Current Event.*

1.) "The Believing" *in His Infallible Word vv. 37-38*

Isaiah 55:11

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Acts 7:37

"This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, *'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.*

Quoting Deuteronomy 18:15

Moses had just warned them to never Worship anyone or thing... but God alone.

- **By Moses addressing Israel, he's addressing them**, Stephen knows it, and they know it. Moses is saying this to you (NOW) that there is to come a greater Prophet... **"are you that prophet"**

**Stephen's mission is to get them to receive
Jesus as Christ from the scriptures.**

congregation GRK ekklesia (ek-klay-see'-ah) the church, the called out ones, the gathering,

HEELLOOO the Point is "as **Moses** was with his **church**,
Jesus (THE Prophet was with His)

2.) The Rejecting of His Infallible Word vv. 39-43

In verse 35

The Indictment was that... they had rejected Moses...
God's Ruler (**Prince**) & Judge (loo-tro-tace' **redeemer**)

Isaiah 44:6

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.

Moses was a forerunner of Jesus, who was greater than Moses

Verse 39

Reject **GRK** **apothomai (ap-o-theh'-om-ahee)**
to shove off, to push off, to thrust away - as a boat from the dock.

They limited or boxed God in

They had created a Jewish God, who lived in a Jewish Temple who loved only the Jewish people

God had Promised to save them... But they Perished in the wilderness

- Were they saved?... **I don't think so.**
 - Could they have gotten saved?... **YES**
 - Could they have been saved and lost it?... **NO**
- Can I Lose My Salvation ?**

Q:

are you sure you're saved? because it is **"the saved"** that are going to heaven

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Know **GRK** **eido (i'-do)**
to be aware of, to have knowledge of, to tell of it!!!

Psalm 107:2

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

Can I Lose My Salvation ?

Make sure that you have it.... then stay close to HIM !!!

Turn to

¶ John 15:1-6 ¶

John 6:68

...Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Assurance Check Ahead

John 6:37

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me **I will by no means cast out.**

John 10:28-29a

"And **I give them eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand...V-29 "no one is able to remove them from My Fathers hand as well"

Ephesians 4:30

...You were **sealed (stamped)** by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (relies upon, clings to, to commit fully) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

...And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,

Backslidden ?

It is possible for the Christian to "wander" back to Egypt.
To become backslidden in heart

Jeremiah 2:19

Your own sin will correct you, and your backsliding will rebuke you...for you have forsaken the LORD your God, and the fear (awe) of God is not in you,"

Remember what is their experience,

*The cloud by day, The Pillar of fire by night,
The Thunder & Lightning, The Mountain shaking*

The Result of Rejection

Breaking the First Two of the Big-Ten

- 1) You shall have no other gods before me.
- 2) You shall not make any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under, or on the earth *or which you driveth upon the freeway*

**THE CALF WAS AN IDOL SYMBOLIZING
MALE DOMINANCE & FERTILITY**

Exodus 32:6

Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play (and it wasn't ping-pong)

Exodus 32:24

...they gave me their gold, I threw it into the fire, and this calf came out.

Verse 42

“Then God Turned”

HEB *to be removed from His presence, to withdraw His blessing, to step away from*

“He’s Always the Last to Leave”

Quoting Amos 5:25-27

The crime was that when they went to church they “looked Like” they were worshipping God, *but inside their hearts they were worshipping idols.*
(I Can't Wait to Get Home)

False worship (Idolatry) is pretty neat

It's very pleasant to the flesh. And it condones what "Feels Good"

Proverbs 7 talks about flesh worship...

Proverbs 7:16

I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry,
with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.

Carved *Root word is GRK chatab (khaw-tab')*

carved & polished works: PORNOGRAPHY

There is a Warning:

Romans 1:22-28

Professing to be wise, they became fools, :23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible **man--** and **birds** and **four-footed animals** and **creeping things**. :24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, :25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. :26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. :27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. :28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

If you continue to presume upon the grace of God
you will eventually become "given over" or "hardened"
as Pharaoh was.

Ephesians 4:17-19

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. :18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them **due to the hardening of their hearts**. :19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

You won't want to be rescued,
you won't want to be delivered.

To Obey is Better than Sacrifice

Verse 43

- **Moloch** *was the Canaanite-Phoenician god of the heavens (stars) specifically Venus.*
they would worship their god, become pregnant and then offer their child by abortion or by infant sacrifice.
- **Remphan** *was the god of Saturn. They sought guidance & direction for their decisions*

Known as the Mazzaroth in Hebrew, it's known in Babylonian as

The Zodiac (the L. A. Times it's called "the horoscope")

Stephen's Message is that Joseph was sent only to be rejected, Moses was sent, only to be rejected... Jesus was sent only to be rejected... and You have been sent and will often experience rejection!

Remember, gnawing at their conscience was the words of Peter

Acts 5:30

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.

Acts 3:14-15

"But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, :15 "and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

I am amazed at the things a grown man will go after once he's rejected Jesus Christ !

3.) The Patience of His Infallible Word vv. 43b

What happened while they were in Babylon, **they were cured of Idolatry or what is known as Babylonianism** (Astrology, The Zodiac, Horoscope, Tarot cards, Ouija Boards, using crystals & spirit guides & Palm Reading).

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

"When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. :10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, (child sacrifice) or one who practices witchcraft,(or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, :11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. :12 "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

all of it condemned by God and cursed by God, because it is real and very dangerous.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord..... is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Jesus Preached the Gospel (Good News)

Luke 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to **the poor**; he has sent Me to heal **the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to **the captives** and recovery of sight to **the blind**, to set at liberty **those who are bound**.

- I was Poor
- I was Brokenhearted
- I was Captive
- I was Blind
- I was Bound

Don't be Foolish...

Jeremiah 8:20

**"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and you are not saved!"**