

For Starters: Have I ever been jealous of someone else's faith or spirituality?

Witness in Jerusalem (1:15—8:3)

The Apostolic Ministry (5:12-42)

Apostles Arrested (5:12-26)

5:12-13 Who was (and who wasn't) present in Solomon's Portico?

Why might other Christians have not dared to join the apostles?

5:16-18 What does Luke say is the motivation for arresting the apostles?

5:19-20 What had Peter and John been told not to do? (see **4:17**)

What does the angel want the apostles to do?

5:26 Why does the captain of the guard handle the apostles carefully?

Peter's Fourth Sermon (5:27-33)

5:28 What does the high priest say the apostles intend to do?

Why is this claim ironic? (see **Matthew 27:24-25**)

How can this claim be interpreted negatively, and how can it be interpreted positively?

5:30 Does Peter contradict the gospel accounts of Christ's death?

5:33 What things did Peter say that would have enraged the council?

Gamaliel's Counsel (5:34-42)

5:38-39 What is Gamaliel's advice for the council in dealing with the Christian movement?

5:40-41 What is the apostles' punishment, and how do they take it?

5:42 Has their arrest and punishment discouraged them?

Ministry to the Hellenists (6:1-7)

The Problem (6:1-4) • The First Deacons (6:5-7)

6:1 Who are the "Hellenists"?

How were they being neglected?

6:2-4 What will be the purpose of the seven men selected?

What do the apostles perceive to be the focus of their own mission?

What sorts of differences are there between these two ministries?

6:7 Why is it significant that priests were beginning to accept the Christian faith?

Persecution in Jerusalem (6:8—8:3)

Stephen's Arrest (6:8-15)

6:8-10 What was the purpose of these deacons?

What else is Stephen doing?

6:11-14 How did the council manage to arrest Stephen without upsetting the people?

Stephen's Speech (7:1-53)

7:51-53 What does Stephen accuse the council of doing?

Stephen's Death (7:54—8:1a) • The Church in Jerusalem Scattered (8:1b-3)

7:54,57 What is the council's bodily response to Stephen's speech and vision?

Where else are those physical actions associated with?

How does that relate to Stephen's charge against them? (see **7:51**)

7:55-56 What is unusual about Jesus' posture in Stephen's vision?

7:58 What might the detail about laying their garments at Saul's feet mean?

8:1 How does the persecution of the church in Jerusalem accomplish God's will?

8:3 What is Saul's mission?

New Testament Link: Jesus and Stephen

What claims were made about Jesus in order to get him arrested? (see **Matthew 26:59-61**)

What claims were made about Stephen? (see **6:11-14**)

What accusation did Jesus make about the scribes and Pharisees? (see **Luke 11:47-51**)

What accusation did Stephen make about them? (see **7:51-53**)

What vision did Jesus announce to the high priest at his trial? (see **Matthew 26:63-66**)

What vision did Stephen describe at his trial? (see **7:55-57**)

What are two sayings of Jesus from the cross? (see **Luke 23:34, 46**)

What two things did Stephen say as he was dying? (see **7:59-60**)

Application: How do I find balance between the spiritual and physical needs in my life?

Application: How can I recognize God's will or plan for me in the midst of trials and struggles?