



# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, March 7, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

## **“The Ministry and Arrest of Stephen”**

Acts 6:8-15

1. The power of one Christian testimony (Acts 6:8-10)

## 2. The power of opposition to Jesus (Acts 6:11-15)

### Table Talk

- 1) What kinds of things was Stephen doing? How do those things go beyond his “job description” as a deacon? In what ways do you go beyond your “job description” in serving Jesus and His church? (v.8)
- 2) Where did the opposition to Stephen arise? How is it surprising that opposition frequently comes from those we are closest to? (v. 9)
- 3) What was powerful about Stephen? Is this kind of power something that God just gives or can we cultivate it? If we can cultivate it, how can we do that? (v.10)
- 4) What is accurate about the accusations made against Stephen? What is distorted? How does opposition to Christianity in all times contain an element of accuracy and an element of distortion? (v. 11)
- 5) How do you see “cancel culture” at work in the synagogue members’ attack on Stephen? (v. 12) What should be our response to cancel culture attacks against Christianity in the present time?
- 6) How do distortions in accusations against Stephen turn into downright falsehood? (v. 13) What falsehoods are Stephen’s opponents making? (v. 13-14) What downright falsehoods are being presented against Christians today?
- 7) How does Stephen conduct himself at this trial? What is remarkable about him? How does this kind of response under pressure happen? (v. 15) Does responding in a godly fashion mean that Stephen’s persecution is lightened? Why not?