



# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, April 4, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

## **“The Uncommon Victory of Christ and His Followers”**

Acts 7:54-60

1. The Uncommon Victory of Seeing the Unseen. (Acts 7:54-56)

2. The Uncommon Victory of Loss that Turns into Gain.  
(Acts 7:57-58)

### 3. The Uncommon Victory of Heaven Gained and Sins Forgiven. (Acts 7:59-60)

## Table Talk

- 1) How do the Jewish leaders respond to Stephen's speech? Are they responding judicially or as a mob? (v. 54) What evidences do we see that a mob mentality rather than judicial restraint is part of human experience today? What does it mean to be "full of the Holy Spirit"? (see v. 55 and 6:3, 5)
- 2) What does Stephen see? (v. 56) What is right there in front of him that he does not gaze at? Who is there? What might be the significance of the figure standing rather than seated? Who is this "Son of Man"? Where do we see "uncommon victory" here in verses 54-56?
- 3) Why does the crowd not see what Stephen sees? Why do they cry with loud voices and stop their ears? How is it tempting to fail to see what is plainly there and even to stop our own ears to eliminate evidence that might contradict our assumptions? What does it mean that the crowd "rushed together" at Stephen? (v. 57)
- 4) What evidence do we have in verse 58 that all looks lost for the cause of Christ in this moment? What evidence do we have that that loss will become immeasurable gain? Where do we see "uncommon victory" in verses 57-58?
- 5) What would you say if you were being stoned? What might that feel like? What does Stephen say? How does that imitate Jesus? (see v. 59 and Luke 23:46) What is significant about Stephen praying to Jesus rather than God the Father?
- 6) Why is Stephen falling to his knees? How does his loud voice remind us of Jesus? (see v. 60 and Luke 23:46) How does what Stephen says remind us of Jesus? (see v. 60 and Luke 23:34) What does this suggest about our own attitude toward those who hate Christians in our own time? Where do we see "uncommon victory" in verses 59-60?