

**“Acts – Enlarging the Kingdom: More Challenges in the Early Church (5)”**  
(Acts 6:1-8:3)

**Last week: Early Church successfully passed the tests of...  
Preserving Internal Church Purity, and Suffering External Persecution**

**Today: More Challenges at \_\_\_\_\_**

**I. Internal Crisis of \_\_\_\_\_ (6:1-7)**

**A. Devil’s Scheme to Divide the Church: \_\_\_\_\_ in Daily Distribution of Food**

**Allow other’s the Freedom to have Preferences, yet be willing to Deny one’s own  
in order to achieve the Greater Goal of \_\_\_\_\_**

**B. Apostles’ Solution: Selected Seven “\_\_\_\_\_” Deacons for  
Assistance**

**The Scheme to Divide the Church Backfired, and the Church continued  
to be Unified (6:5), to Multiply (6:7) and to be Respected (6:8)**

**II. External Crisis – \_\_\_\_\_ (6:8-8:3): The Scheme to Suppress the Church**

**A. Debating and Falsely Accusing Stephen**

**B. Stephen’s Address (7:1-56)**

- **Covenantal Relationship of Abraham to God by Grace through Faith (vv 1-8)**
- **Israel’s history of Rejecting God’s Chosen Deliverers: Joseph, Moses, and Jesus, the Messiah (vv 9-36)**
- **Israel repeatedly Broke the Law (vv 37-43)**
- **God cannot be Confined to a physical building (1 Kings 8:27; Isa 66:1–2)**
- **Jesus Emphasized Worship in \_\_\_\_\_ (John 4:23)**

**C. Climax of Stephen’s Speech: Rebuke and Martyrdom (vv 51-56)**

- **Persecution leads to \_\_\_\_\_**

**For Stephen (*Stephanos*), Martyrdom was his Coronation,  
and the Resulting Dispersion began to Fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission (Acts 8:1, 4; cf. 1:8)**

**Persecution and Martyrdom have been the most Effective means  
to Enlarge the Kingdom of God... Are you In?**

**Answers: Escalated Severity; Disunity; Inequity; Church Unity; Wise and Spirit-Filled; Martyrdom; Spirit and Truth; Spreading of the Gospel**

**“Acts – Enlarging the Kingdom: More Challenges in the Early Church (5)”**  
(Acts 6:1-8:3)

**Last week: Early Church successfully passed the tests of...  
Preserving Internal Church Purity, and Suffering External Persecution**

**Today: More Challenges at Escalated Severity**

**I. Internal Crisis of Disunity (6:1-7)**

**A. Devil’s Scheme to Divide the Church: Inequity in Daily Distribution of Food**

**Allow other’s the Freedom to have Preferences, yet be willing to Deny one’s own  
in order to achieve the Greater Goal of Church Unity**

**B. Apostles’ Solution: Selected Seven “Wise and Spirit-Filled” Deacons for Assistance**

**The Scheme to Divide the Church Backfired, and the Church continued  
to be Unified (6:5), to Multiply (6:7) and to be Respected (6:8)**

**II. External Crisis – Martyrdom (6:8-8:3): The Scheme to Suppress the Church**

**A. Debating and Falsely Accusing Stephen**

**B. Stephen’s Address (7:1-56)**

- **Covenantal Relationship of Abraham to God by Grace through Faith (vv 1-8)**
- **Israel’s history of Rejecting God’s Chosen Deliverers: Joseph, Moses, and Jesus, the Messiah (vv 9-36)**
- **Israel repeatedly Broke the Law (vv 37-43)**
- **God cannot be Confined to a Physical building (1 Kings 8:27; Isa 66:1–2)**
- **Jesus Emphasized Worship in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23)**

**C. Climax of Stephen’s Speech: Rebuke and Martyrdom (vv 51-56)**

- **Persecution leads to the spreading of the Gospel**

**For Stephen (*Stephanos*), Martyrdom was his Coronation,  
and the Resulting Dispersion began to Fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission (Acts 8:1, 4; cf. 1:8)**

**Persecution and Martyrdom have been the most Effective means  
to Enlarge the Kingdom of God...**

**Are you In?**

**Answers: Escalated Severity; Disunity; Inequity; Church Unity; Wise and Spirit-Filled; Martyrdom; Spirit and Truth; Spreading of the Gospel**