

## Acts 7:51 – 8:3, & others - Heart of a Martyr

- 1) Icebreaker
- 2) Lesson
  - a) Objective: Talk about the heart of a martyr
    - i) Tie into recent church, local, or global events on the persecuted church
- 3) First Martyr - Stephen
  - a) Brought before the head priest for sharing the good news & performing signs
    - i) Acts 7: 51-53
    - ii) Acts 7: 54-56
    - iii) Acts 7: 57-59
    - iv) Acts 8: 1-3
  - b) **Q: Should we want to be a martyr?**
    - i) **Q: Does it mean we have a death wish? Or that we want to die?**
    - ii) **Q: What does it mean to be like them, the same breed?**
    - iii) **Q: Is it up to us how we die?**
    - iv) Verses
      - (1) Matt 10:38-39
- 4) **Q: May never have the chance to be murdered for Christ, so what choice do we have?**
  - a) Christ isn't looking for melancholy believers, he's looking for spiritual special forces
  - b) **Q: What is it that makes Special Forces so important to the Army?**
    - i) Unconventional warfare – new methods, psychological warfare, etc.
    - ii) Counter terrorism – operate counter to the enemy
    - iii) Recognizance – guide heavy artillery
    - iv) Direct action – initiating change (threaten security)
    - v) Foreign internal defense – recruit and train local forces
  - c) **Q: Describe the character of that kind of individual?**
    - i) Bold, direct, uncompromising, etc.
- 5) Martyrs revisited
  - a) **Q: What do you know about Stephen?**
    - i) Selected by the 12 to help administer food to widows (Acts 6:5-6)
    - ii) Did wonders and signs (Acts 6:8)
    - iii) Was unashful about his beliefs (Acts 6:9, Acts 8:3)
  - b) Find a copy of the DVD *The End of the Spear*, make it a movie night for your group
    - i) Were these melancholy, quiet saints? Or were they commandos?
  - c) Matt 5:10-13 MSG
    - i) Heart of Christ is that you develop a bold heart, the kind of heart that gets you in trouble
- 6) **BONUS**
  - a) We may not die – but what other ways could we be courageous
  - b) Counter-fear
  - c) **Q: What do you fear?**
  - d) **Q: If not afraid, describe your desperation for souls?**