

Acts 6-9

LeRoy Eims

I. Introduction.

A. Personal Testimony.

1. Eims fought in the war and watched a man die who asked him to pray for him without knowing what to do.
2. Several Christians began to witness to him and he read the entire Bible while in a military hospital.
3. In the Bible, LeRoy found the truth of God in Jesus Christ and God's love demonstrated through God giving Jesus. He gave his life and heart to Jesus.
4. LeRoy's wife came to Christ and they sold what they had in order to go to Bible school.

B. Text: Acts 6.

II. The disciples deep commitment and fellowship with Jesus kept them going in the face of persecution.

A. You make it over the long haul by making it over the short haul.

1. Every day to do His will we must choose Jesus' Lordship against our flesh.
2. The Devil is out to get us, but if we resist him he will flee from us.
3. The Devil hates unity in the people of God.

B. Stephen was an expert witness but he did the dirty work.

1. We need to be willing to do whatever kind of service that is needed.
2. Stephen was the first Christian martyr in part because of his willingness to serve.
3. God's concern is with the fulfillment of his promises and the guidance and direction of His men.

C. The persecution resulted in the spread of the disciples witness.

1. Gamaliel granted asylum to the Apostles but not the rest of the disciples.
2. The Devil tries to get believers by persecution, but here it backfired.
3. The first thing that was done in the scattering was the preaching of Christ. (Acts 2:24, 4:10, 5:30)

D. Saul's conversion. (Acts 9)

1. Saul was angry because he knew that the only hope for his people was the hope of Messiah and thought that Christians were blaspheming about the Messiah rising from the dead.
2. Saul had an encounter with Jesus Christ - he only saw Christ for the rest of his life.
3. Christians are those calling upon the name of the Lord, believers, and followers of the way.
4. The Christian life is trusting and obeying no matter the circumstances. (Acts 5:29)

Application questions

1. What is the role of service in evangelism, and how is Stephen a model of this?

2. Preaching Christ was central to the early disciples - what did the Devil do to try and prevent this?

3. In what areas have you struggled to trust and obey God? How does Acts 5:29 offer a model of how you can respond appropriately in the future?
