

Sermon #5

"Stephen-A Man of Integrity"

Acts 6:8-7

Introduction: It is said that the grand soldier of the South, General Robert E. Lee, waited out his last days in near poverty. One day, some men approached him to offer him an unusual proposition. If he would merely sign a piece of paper, they would not ask him to make decisions not put in office hours. They simply wanted the use of his good name.

General Lee took up his cane and said, "*Men, I lost my home in the war; I lost my fortune in the way; I lost everything in the way, except my name. And but I am not ready to sell my good name to anyone, no matter how much it may be worth, especially for a product of doubtful repute.*"

Warren Wiersbe said that every Christian has 4 names: "**SAINT**, for his holiness; **BELIEVER**, for his faith; **BROTHER**, for his love; and, **DISCIPLE**, for his commitment." I wonder if we are living up to our name?"

UPI correspondent Wesley Pippert comments, "Few things are more important than whether one has a good reputation, a good name. Not all people are sociable or outgoing. Not all people are sought after or loveable. But everyone can have integrity. Integrity flows more out of a disciplined character than a daring personality." [1]

The verses before us today tell one of my favorite stories in the Bible. They focus on one of my favorite characters in the Bible.

He is a man by the name of Stephen, and we get a firsthand look at Stephen-A Man of Integrity...

Outline

1. A Man Greatly Respected!

A) *His Inward Character*

B) *His Outward Conduct*

C) *His Upward Countenance*

2. A Man Grossly Rejected!!

A) *The Testimony He Possessed*

B) *The Truth He Proclaimed*

1) What it Contained

B) How it Convicted

3. A Man Gloriously Rewarded!

A) *By What He Said*

B) *With What He Saw*