

Perception Matters Bible Study 8: “Resistant or Receptive” –

Acts 7:51-60

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Important Information Before Reading the Text:

- Stephen is one of the seven men chosen to distribute food to the widows so that the Apostles can continue preaching, teaching, baptizing and guiding the new community of believers
- Much like those used against Jesus, false witnesses accused Stephen of blasphemy by claiming he opposed God and Moses
- Verse 51 begins with a quote of God’s reaction when the Israelites build a golden calf to worship while waiting for Moses to come down from the mountain

1. Why might someone cling to their position even though they’re repeatedly shown that it’s flawed?

2. What might make someone receptive to taking part in a new ministry?

After Reading the Text:

3. What’s your first impression of today’s lesson?

4. What, if anything, tells you that Stephen is receptive to following in Jesus’s footsteps?

Next week our Impressions Matter Bible Study 1 will be “It’s Not Good to Be Alone” from Genesis 2:18-23

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5. What similarities do you see between how Stephen responds to his accusers and the way Jesus responded to his accusers?

6. What helps you resist efforts to silence your witness for Christ?

7. Stephen does things in today’s lesson that help him stay focused on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ despite escalating opposition. How do deal with such situations?

Prayer:

Gracious God, help us be receptive to your Spirit so that we can stop resisting your efforts to re-purpose us so we can become more like you. – Amen.

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