

The Rest of the Story

Acts 8:1-3

Joseph Dugger

¹ "Now Saul approved of putting Stephen to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. "

Acts 8:1-3

² "Some devout men buried Stephen, and mourned loudly for him."

Acts 8:1-3

³ "But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and he would drag away men and women and put them in prison."

Acts 8:1-3

Stephen was known for:

- Having a good reputation (6:3)
- Being full of the Holy Spirit (6:3, 5, 10; 7:53)
- Being wise (6:3, 10)
- Being full of faith (6:5)
- Being full of grace and power (6:8)

¹ "And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles."

- Sometimes God allows persecution & suffering to occur knowing it will lead to greater Glory.
- At all times, God is fully aware of the persecution of His people.

10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NASB)

"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you."

John 15:18 (NASB)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NASB)

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went through places preaching the word."

Acts 8:4 (NASB)

"19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks as well, preaching the good news of the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord."

Acts 11:19-21 (NASB)

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive."

Genesis 50:20 (NASB)

²"Some devout men buried Stephen, and mourned loudly for him."

"And the relatives of the executed man would not mourn him with the observance of the usual mourning rites, so that his unmourned death would atone for his transgression; but they would grieve over his passing, since grief is felt only in the heart."

Mishnah, Sanhedrin 6:6

"Making beauty from ashes is what You do best, so in Your promise I'm waiting and in this I'll rest.

In the hands of a good God, oh I know You are a good God.

In the hands of a good God, my suffering is never for nothing."

- "Hands", Caylee Dugger

³"But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and he would drag away men and women and put them in prison."

"Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest"

Acts 9:1 (NASB)

"13 For you have heard of my former way of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions."

Galatians 1:13-14 (NASB)

"I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons."

Acts 22:4 (NASB)

"9 So, I thought to myself that I had to act in strong opposition to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

10 And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, after receiving authority from the chief priests, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being put to death.

11 And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was extremely enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities."

Acts 26:9-11 (NASB)

1. We serve a God we can trust in all things
2. Endurance comes from a genuine hope in Christ.
3. The Gospel of Christ is the only means of true redemption.