

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 13 “Seeing Jesus”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on the book of *Acts*. We are going to go verse by verse through the entire book and looking at how the Church was born in revival and this caused the Gospel to go viral.

A. We have already seen three major revivals. These are Pentecost in *Acts 2* which led to 3,000 salvations, the healing of the lame man in *Acts 3* which led to 5,000, and the multitudes who were added to the church through signs and wonders (healing from Peter’s shadow in *Acts 5*. True revival causes the gospel to go viral.

B. Last week we began looking at the ministry of Steven which was one of the shortest but most impactful ministries in the entire Bible.

1. We saw how Steven (a deacon) operated in signs and wonders to draw a crowd.
2. He then began to share a message that showed how all of Jewish history pointed to Jesus. He reframed the narrative to help them see what is now obvious to us 2,000 years later.
3. It’s kind of like the movie the “6th Sense.” In the movie Bruce Willis is a psychologist who is working with this kid who has a special power to see dead people. They are working together to solve a murder and then finally at the end we are given some new information that Bruce Willis is dead (he’s a ghost).
 - a. Once you see that truth, it’s obvious throughout the whole movie that he was a ghost. There are clues throughout, such as no one ever talks to Bruce Willis but the kid. Before you get new information it’s hard to see.
 - b. **John 5:39-40** *you search the scriptures because you think in them you have eternal life, but they testify of Me!*
 - c. Last week, we saw how Christ was revealed through the Old Testament.

II. Seeing Jesus

A. **Acts 7:17-36 Rescue from Egyptian bondage** - This is a picture of salvation. Prior to the cross we were in bondage to sin, like the Jews were in bondage in Egypt. Pharaoh is a metaphor for Satan and Moses is a type of Christ. He delivers them to a promised land (salvation).

1. **Verses 18-19** We see a king threatened by a baby so he decides to kill all the babies. Where have we seen that before?

2. **Verses 23-28** It came into Moses's heart to visit his brethren. This is a detail *Exodus* doesn't provide. Moses wanted to deliver his brethren, but he wasn't received just like Jesus wasn't received by his brethren.
3. **Verses 29-34** Moses goes through a time of testing just like Jesus went through time of testing. Moses tested 40 years and Jesus 40 days. Throughout the scripture 40 is symbolic of trial and testing.
4. **Verses 35-36** Moses brought them out through signs and wonders. The miracles caused Pharaoh to yield and the people to believe and follow.

B. Acts 7:37-43 Israel rebels against God

1. Steven is making a comparison. He is saying way he same way the Jews rejected Moses and God's word in the wilderness, this group of Jews is rejecting Jesus and getting into idolatry. Quotation of *Amos 5:25-27*.
2. The Jews are worshipping at the temple, their rituals, their rules, their feasts and missing what they point to.

C. Acts 7:44-53 Israel resists the Holy Spirit

1. Steven makes the point that God never really wanted to live in a tabernacle made with hands. He always wanted to live inside of us, which His hand created.
2. **Verses 51-53** The Jews rejected the Holy Spirit who was always point to Jesus. They followed the pattern of their fathers. **Luke 11:46-52**

D. Acts 7:54-60 Steven Sees Jesus

1. It's interesting that they were cut to their heart. The Holy Spirit was dealing with their heart, but they didn't respond properly.
2. Jesus opened up the heavens for Stevens so Steven could see Jesus. Jesus received Steven.
3. A young man named Saul heard this message while He was holding the coats of those who killed Steven.

III. Conclusion - One of the prayers I have started to pray more frequently over the last couple of years is for the Lord to give people eyes to see. We can't argue people into truth. We can present it, but it must be the Holy Spirit who gives revelation. I pray the Lord gives us all eyes to see Him and eyes to see more of what He has made available to us through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.