

“Unstoppable”

What’s something that pushes your “angry button”?

Read Acts 6:8-15.

1. Which of the following descriptions apply to Stephen?
 - A. Good-looking.
 - B. Lots and lots of friends.
 - C. Smart.
 - D. Ordained as a deacon.
 - E. Rich.
 - F. Full of faith and the Holy Spirit.
 - G. Persuasive.
 - H. Dedicated to serving others.
 - I. Other.

2. Why did the immigrant Jews to Jerusalem find fault with Stephen?
 - A. People tend to find fault with those not like themselves.
 - B. Jewish immigrants to Jerusalem were intent on their pilgrimage.
 - C. Travelers to Jerusalem didn’t want their temple beliefs challenged.
 - D. Stephen was a Christ-following deacon who was preaching heresy.
 - E. Nobody likes to lose an argument.
 - F. Stephen challenged the temple establishment by promoting Jesus.
 - G. When you lose a religious argument, things quickly get emotional.
 - H. Change is often difficult; deep, religious change is even more so.
 - I. Other.

3. What happened when Stephen’s face became like the face of an angel?
 - A. The Holy Spirit entered him.
 - B. Silence reigned as people stood in awe.
 - C. People took up stones to kill him.
 - D. His face became like Moses’ face after seeing God (see Exodus 34:29).
 - E. It became obvious who was Godly and who wasn’t.
 - F. That made the listeners more open to what Stephen said next.
 - G. That made the listeners more closed to what Stephen said next.
 - H. God communicated his message (“angel” means messenger).
 - I. Other.

4. What did Stephen include in the final speech of his life (Acts 7:1-53)?
 - A. Respect for the religious leaders.
 - B. A history of the Jewish people, as if nobody present knew it.
 - C. A presentation of Jesus as the Messiah, rooted in Jewish history.
 - D. An endorsement of Moses, but in anticipation of someone greater.
 - E. A history of the Israelites repeatedly rejecting God's messengers.
 - F. Jesus is more important than this temple you value so much.
 - G. Jesus is coming soon.
 - H. Other.

5. If you had been a Jew there that day, what would have offended you from Stephen's speech?
 - A. Nothing.
 - B. Calling me names.
 - C. Questioning our religion that has been around for 2,000 years.
 - D. Not respecting our religious leaders.
 - E. The special effects lighting his face at key moments.
 - F. Showing disrespect for our ancestors.
 - G. Endorsing a crucified criminal (Jesus) over all of our past prophets.
 - H. Other.

6. What amazes you the most about Stephen's martyrdom?
 - A. God didn't save Stephen from physical death (sleep).
 - B. The Jewish leaders got so riled up so quickly.
 - C. The Roman soldiers played no part like they did for Christ's death.
 - D. Stephen forgave his murderers as they murdered him.
 - E. Stephen saw Jesus in heaven at God's right hand (place of honor).
 - F. Saul/Paul from Tarsus, Cilicia, heard but couldn't out-argue Stephen.
 - G. It sparked more persecution, resulting in the Gospel spreading more.
 - H. Other.

7. Is Jesus *the center* of your religious beliefs and practices OR does Jesus *challenge* your religious beliefs and practices?

8. Where do you see Jesus or His angels/messengers in those around you? When do others notice Jesus in you?