

## **Book of Acts**

### **Acts 7 - Standing Ovation**

*Acts 7:34–60*

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What makes you angry? What angers you defines you!!

Some things irritate us but shouldn't anger us.

- Like a slow driver in the passing lane.
- The gap between your car seat when you drop something down there.
- Slow Wi-Fi.
- The new apple iOS download.
- Telemarketers calling your cell phone.

#### **HUMAN ANGER VS. GODLY ANGER**

##### **James 1:20 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> *Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.*

##### **Righteous Indignation:**

The Bible says, "**Be angry and sin not**" (**Eph. 4:26**). There is way too much passivity in the Church today. People get angry at the things that really don't matter and there is little to no anger over the things that should matter.

- Nehemiah got angry over extortion
- Moses got angry at the Israelites' idolatry and he broke the stone tablets.
- David got angry with Goliath.
- Jesus got angry over lukewarmness (He said, "I will spit you out of my mouth).

##### **Unholy Anger:**

- Cain got angry at his brother's godly life.
- Moses got angry with the people and stuck the rock instead of speaking to the rock. He was banished from entering the promise land because of it.
- Stephen is about to wrap up his and his words incite hatred and anger to the point that the crowd takes him out and stones him to death.

##### **Acts 7:34-47 (NLT)**

<sup>34</sup> *I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groans and have come down to rescue them. Now go, for I am sending you back to Egypt.*<sup>35</sup> *"So God sent back the same man his people had previously rejected when they demanded, 'Who made you a ruler and judge over us?' Through the angel who appeared to him in the burning bush, God sent Moses to be their ruler and savior.*<sup>36</sup> *And by means of many wonders and miraculous signs, he led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and through the wilderness for forty years.*<sup>37</sup> *"Moses himself told the people of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people.'*

<sup>38</sup> *Moses was with our ancestors, the assembly of God's people in the wilderness, when the angel spoke to him at Mount Sinai. And there Moses received life-giving words to pass on to us.*<sup>39</sup> *"But our ancestors refused to listen to Moses. They rejected him and wanted to return to Egypt.*<sup>40</sup> *They told Aaron, 'Make us some gods who can lead us, for we don't know what has become of this Moses, who brought us out of Egypt.'*<sup>41</sup> *So they made an idol shaped like a calf, and they sacrificed to it and celebrated over this thing they had made.*<sup>42</sup> *Then God turned away from them and abandoned them to serve the stars of heaven as their gods! In the book of the prophets it is written, 'Was it to me you*

were bringing sacrifices and offerings during those forty years in the wilderness, Israel? <sup>43</sup> No, you carried your pagan gods— the shrine of Molech, the star of your god Rephan, and the images you made to worship them. So I will send you into exile as far away as Babylon.’ <sup>44</sup> “Our ancestors carried the Tabernacle with them through the wilderness. It was constructed according to the plan God had shown to Moses. <sup>45</sup> Years later, when Joshua led our ancestors in battle against the nations that God drove out of this land, the Tabernacle was taken with them into their new territory. And it stayed there until the time of King David. <sup>46</sup> “David found favor with God and asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob. <sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who actually built it.

#### **Acts 7:48-54 (NLT)**

<sup>48</sup> However, the Most High doesn’t live in temples made by human hands. As the prophet says, <sup>49</sup> ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that?’ asks the LORD. ‘Could you build me such a resting place? <sup>50</sup> Didn’t my hands make both heaven and earth?’ <sup>51</sup> “You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you! <sup>52</sup> Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. <sup>53</sup> You deliberately disobeyed God’s law, even though you received it from the hands of angels.” <sup>54</sup> The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen’s accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage.

Stephen sets an entirely new tone in Christian preaching, the style of which became the preferred method of preaching during historic revivals in early America: direct and pointed accusation at those who offended God.

#### **Acts 7:55-60 (NLT)**

<sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand. <sup>56</sup> And he told them, “Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand!” <sup>57</sup> Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him <sup>58</sup> and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup> He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.

We have seen repeatedly throughout history that the blood of the martyrs is indeed the seedbed of revival.

A new study by Media Research Center has revealed that mainstream media devoted some six times as much air time to covering the recent death of Harambe the gorilla than they did to the gruesome Islamic State decapitation of 21 Coptic Christians on a Libyan beach last year.

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-journalism/2016/06/07/report-media-give-gorilla-death-6-times-coverage-isis-beheadings-christians/>

#### **Matthew 10:32 (NKJV)**

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

Stephen possessed a faith worth dying for!

Do we at least possess a faith worth living for?

What I am living for - was it worth Christ dying for?

Are there misplaced priorities in your life?

Getting angry at things you should just brush off and just brushing off things that you should get angry at.

Christian Persecution please visit:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>