

Acts 6: They Couldn't Withstand Him

Acts 6:8-15 (with Luke 21:12-19) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Read Acts 6:10 slowly. Men from several synagogues are arguing with Stephen, and Luke says “they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.” Now turn back to Luke 21. Before the cross, Jesus told his disciples they’d be dragged in front of synagogues and rulers, and that it would be their “opportunity to bear witness.” Then he promised, “I will give you a mouth and wisdom, **which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.**” Same promise, same word. And here it is, kept, in a man who isn’t even an apostle. The risen Jesus is doing exactly what he said he’d do. But keep reading Luke 21, because Jesus also said, “some of you they will put to death.” He promised a mouth and wisdom, not safety. Stephen dies in chapter 7. But first he looks up and sees “the Son of Man **standing at the right hand of God.**”

GO DEEPER, STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **Luke 21:12-19**, then **Acts 6:8** through **7:60**. Make a list of every promise Jesus makes in Luke 21 and find where each one happens to Stephen. Don’t skip **Luke 21:16**.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in Acts: **Acts 1:8** (“you will be my witnesses”) · **Acts 4:8-13** (Peter filled with the Spirit; the council astonished) · **Acts 7:55-60** (Stephen sees Jesus standing at God’s right hand)

Luke’s Gospel: **Luke 21:12-15** (a mouth and wisdom no adversary can withstand) · **Luke 12:11-12** (the Spirit will teach you what to say) · **Luke 21:16-19** (“some of you they will put to death”)

Rest of Scripture: **Exodus 4:12** (“I will be with your mouth,” said to Moses) · **Matthew 10:19-20** (the Spirit of your Father speaking through you) · **2 Timothy 4:17** (“the Lord stood by me and strengthened me”)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Commentary on Acts 6:7-10

John Calvin · Christian Classics Ethereal Library (free)

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom36.xiii.ii.html>

On 6:10: “Christ hath promised the same Spirit to all his servants.”

The Power to Profess Christ

John Piper · Desiring God (Solid Joys devotional)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/solid-joys/the-power-to-profess-christ>

Short read on fresh grace for witness, with Stephen (Acts 6:8-10) as the example.