

Acts 7: You Always Resist

Acts 7:51-53 (with Exodus 32:7-10) · 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 7:51 slowly. Stephen is on trial in front of the most religious men in Jerusalem, and he says, “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, **you always resist the Holy Spirit**. As your fathers did, so do you.” These men had the temple, the law, and the Scriptures. They thought they were the ones protecting all of it. But “stiff-necked” is God’s own word for Israel at the golden calf, and Stephen just walked them through that whole story. Then verse 53: they “received the law as delivered by angels and **did not keep it**.” You can be surrounded by the Bible and still be fighting the God who wrote it. And it can feel like faithfulness the whole time. Keep reading, though. A young man named Saul is standing right there, resisting too. Two chapters later, Jesus stops him on the road.

GO DEEPER, STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **Exodus 32** this week, then come back and read **Acts 7:39-53**. Make a list of everything Israel had right in front of them at Sinai. Then make a list of what you have right in front of you. Finish with **Acts 9:1-6** and watch what Jesus does with a stiff neck.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in Acts: **Acts 7:39-41** (“in their hearts they turned to Egypt”) · **Acts 6:7** (a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith) · **Acts 9:1-6** (Saul stopped by the Jesus he was resisting)

Luke’s Gospel: **Luke 11:47-51** (the fathers killed the prophets; the sons build their tombs) · **Luke 13:34** (“the city that kills the prophets”) · **Luke 7:30** (the Pharisees “rejected the purpose of God for themselves”)

Rest of Scripture: **Exodus 33:3-5** (“you are a stiff-necked people”) · **Deuteronomy 10:16** (“circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart”) · **Isaiah 63:10** (“they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit”)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

The Story of a Stiff-Necked People

John Piper · Desiring God (sermon, 1991)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-story-of-a-stiff-necked-people>

Sermon on Acts 7:1-53: Israel’s long pattern of resisting God, and his patience with the repentant.

Commentary on Acts 7:51-53

John Calvin · Christian Classics Ethereal Library (free)

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/calvin/calcom36.xiv.xi.html>

On 7:51: “those are said to resist the Spirit who reject him when he speaketh in the prophets.”