

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

April 13, 2025 | "A Sermon to Stiffnecks" | **Acts 7:1–53**

EXPOSITION:

- 1) Abraham and the _____ of _____
(7:1–8)
- 2) Joseph and his _____
(7:9–16)
- 3) Moses _____ as _____
(7:17–43)
- 4) God doesn't _____ in _____
(7:44–50)
- 5) The pattern of _____
(7:51–53)

APPLICATION:

- 1) What _____ your _____?
- 2) What is your _____ and what is your _____?

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 7:1–53. What are some repeated words and themes throughout Stephen's sermon? Does the sermon abruptly change in 7:51? How is Stephen connecting the people and events of the OT with the behavior of the NT Jewish leaders (i.e., Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Sanhedrin)?

Which OT characters did Stephen focus his sermon on? Why did he dedicate so much of his sermon to Moses? Why didn't he go into great detail with David and other major characters in the OT (e.g., Adam, Noah, Job, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah).

GET PERSONAL

Answer the question in the notes above: "What stiffens your neck?" What are some things that cause you to stiffen your neck towards God? Are there specific things that have caused you to drift from the Lord or resist his authority over you? Have you ever isolated yourself from God for a period of time? What caused that? How did you come out of that time of isolation?

Answer the question in the notes above: "What is your golden calf?" Also, "What is your temple?" What's the difference between a golden calf and a temple? Make a list of the top 3 or 4 things in your life that could become idols. What is the difference between enjoying God's good gifts for his glory and idolizing those good gifts? Do you agree that when we put ourselves or our families above God, we put them in danger? Why or why not?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How do you cultivate a soft heart instead of a stiff neck in your Christian walk? What are some spiritual disciplines that help with this? Where and when should a Christian be stubbornly (convictionally?) unyielding? Do you tend more towards stubbornness or impressionableness in your Christian life? When is this tendency a strength, and when is it a weakness?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Stephen's trial before the Sanhedrin is similar and dissimilar to Jesus. Read Luke's account of Jesus's trial(s) in Luke 22:47–23:56 and detail some of those similarities and differences. Why didn't Jesus preach a sermon like Stephen's in Acts 7?

Look up the two OT passages that Stephen quotes at length (Amos 5:25–27 and Isaiah 66:1–2) and assess their contexts. How is Stephen using those passages and their contexts in his sermon? Do the same for Stephen's use of Deut 18:15 in Acts 7:37. How is Jesus a "prophet like Moses?"