



#### Acts 6:5-8 (CSB)

<sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert from Antioch. <sup>6</sup> They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.

#### Acts 6:9-10 (CSB)

<sup>9</sup> Opposition arose, however, from some members of the Freedmen's Synagogue, composed of both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, and they began to argue with Stephen. <sup>10</sup> But they were unable to stand up against his wisdom and the Spirit by whom he was speaking.

#### Acts 6:11-15 (CSB)

<sup>11</sup> Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God." <sup>12</sup> They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; so they came, seized him, and took him to the Sanhedrin. <sup>13</sup> They also presented false witnesses who said, "This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the law. <sup>14</sup> For we heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us." <sup>15</sup> And all who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

#### Proverbs 3:3-4 (CSB)

<sup>3</sup> Never let loyalty and faithfulness leave you. Tie them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> Then you will find favor and high regard with God and people.

#### John 19:4 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

**Acts 7:1 (CSB)**

<sup>1</sup> "Are these things true?" the high priest asked.

**Acts 7:51-53 (CSB)**

<sup>51</sup> "You stiff-necked people with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are always resisting the Holy Spirit. As your ancestors did, you do also. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become. <sup>53</sup> You received the law under the direction of angels and yet have not kept it."

**Acts 7:54-60 (CSB)**

<sup>54</sup> When they heard these things, they were enraged and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> He said, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> They yelled at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and together rushed against him. <sup>58</sup> They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" <sup>60</sup> He knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And after saying this, he fell asleep.

**Luke 23:34 (CSB)**

<sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." And they divided his clothes and cast lots.

**Acts 8:1-3 (CSB)**

<sup>1</sup> On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. <sup>3</sup> Saul, however, was ravaging the church. He would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

**1 Timothy 1:12-16 (CSB)**

<sup>12</sup> I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry—<sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I received mercy because I acted out of ignorance in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them. <sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life.

"I opened it with, 'I forgive you, but that doesn't mean what you did was okay.' At the end of it, I asked her if I could hug her, and before I even got the words out of my mouth, she was standing up. I was standing up. We hugged and just stood there and cried." - *Tiki Finlayson*

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE *ORDINARY* TO  
PREPARE FOR THE *EXTRAORDINARY*?**

