

World Upside Down: The Book of Acts

Acts 7:54-8:13

1. Which of these “fruits of the Spirit” is most meaningful to you? [POLL]

2. Stephen receives a vision of the exalted Lord (7:54-56).

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

- Psalm 110:1

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- Romans 8:34

[Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

- Hebrews 1:3

3. The mob shows the shadow side of *homothumadon* (vv. 57-58).

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

- 1 Corinthians 2:14

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

- Romans 8:7

4. Jesus' followers die like Jesus (vv. 59-60).

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
- Psalm 31:5

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.
- Luke 23:46

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.
- Luke 23:34

5. Persecution precipitates the promise of Jesus (8:1).

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.
- Matthew 10:23

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- Acts 1:8

6. Hope in Christ doesn't preclude "great lamentation" (vv. 2-3).

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Jesus wept.
- John 11:35

7. Scattering sparks spreading (vv. 4-7).

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- Philippians 1:12-14

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.”

- Tertullian, 2nd c. A.D.

8. One of the firstfruits of the gospel is *joy* (v. 8).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...

- Galatians 5:22

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- John 15:11

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

- Luke 2:10

9. Amazing grace is greater than amazing magic (vv. 9-13).

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

- Matthew 7:28-29

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

10. The gift of God cannot be bought (vv. 14-24).

Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- Isaiah 55:1-2

The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:23