



## Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

July 10, 2011

### How It Changes Everything!

# desert breeze community church

#### Acts 6:8:712, 54-60 "Priesthood of Believers"

Steven faced martyrdom with boldness, calmness, joy and forgiveness. How did He do that? He understood this amazing Biblical truth: The Priesthood of Believers.

#### The Priesthood of the Believer!

##### What Is It?

- O.T. Sacrificial system: Law/Temple/Priests (Picture/Type/Shadow of Jesus) (Col. 2:17; Heb. 10:1; John 5:39-40; Luke 24:27)
- Jesus our High Priest is the fulfillment of the temple and the law. (Acts 7:52 "Righteous One." Matt. 27:51; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb. 10:12, 26)
- Through Jesus we are a chosen Priesthood who have access to the very throne room of God and are to offer a living sacrifice of our lives (word & deed) proclaiming His excellencies. (1 Pet. 2:5-10; Heb. 4:14-16; Heb. 13:15-16)

##### Why Is It True? (Are these charges true?)

- God is not in a box (temple) He is on the move:  
Vv2-8 God visited Abraham in a pagan land.  
Vv9-19 God was with Joseph even after sold into slavery into a pagan land.  
Vv20-43 God comes to Moses in the wilderness.  
Vv44-50 God is not confined to any house. History of Tabernacle & Temple from Moses to David to Solomon. (Isa. 66:1-2)
- You have hard hearts & consistently break the law.  
Vv51-53 Israel has failed to keep the law & so have you.

- Only Jesus ("Righteous One" v52) through the Cross can give us changed hearts. (2 Cor. 5:17, 21; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19-20; Rom. 12:1-2)

##### What Difference Does It Make?

- Courage (vv6:8 vv7:1-53; 2 Tim. 1:7)
- Compassion (vv6:8, 10; 7:60; Eph. 4:42)
- Celebration (vv7:55-56; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)



# Growing

July 10, 2011

## desert breeze community church

- 1) What would you say of a person who faces martyrdom with boldness, calmness, joy and even forgiveness toward his murderers? This is the story of Steven! What area(s) in your life are you needing boldness, calmness, joy and forgiveness?
- 2) Read Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-2, 54-60. What stands out to you from this text? What do the following verses tell you about the Old Testament sacrificial system and stories? (Col. 2:17; Heb. 10:1; John 5:39-40; Luke 24:27) How is Jesus the fulfillment of the law, temple, and priesthood? (Acts 7:52; Matt. 27:51; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb. 10:12, 26)
- 3) What are the implications that through Christ we have access into the very throne room of God? All of us feel like outsiders but Jesus makes us insiders giving us the acceptance we have looked for our whole life. Explain. How does Steven prove this through his Old Testament History lesson (Acts 7:1-53)?
- 4) What is the Priesthood of Believers (1 Pet.2:5-10)? How does Steven demonstrate courage (Acts 6:8, 7:1-53) and compassion (Acts 6:8, 10, 7:60) as a result of his understanding of this truth: Priesthood of the Believer?
- 5) Reflect on verses Acts 7:55-56. What are the implications of Steven being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven, saw the glory of God, Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and seeing the heavens opened? How would this bring amazing celebration in the midst of martyrdom? Pray 1Pet. 2:5-10 for DB.