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# **Truth and Consequences**



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NO PARKING. LOADING ZONE. 15 minute maximum. All other chariots will be towed at owners expense. Maximum fine of 250 denarii. By order of Ruling Council. Theodotus, ruling elder.



# Theodotus Inscription

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- “Theodotus son of Vettenus, priest and synagogue leader, son of a synagogue leader, grandson of a synagogue leader, rebuilt this synagogue for the reading of the Law and the teaching of the commandments, and the hostelry, rooms and baths, for the lodging of those who have need from abroad. It was established by his forefathers, the elders and Simonides.”



# Acts 6:1-4 – Growing Pains

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Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of **good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom**, whom we may put in charge of this task.

**<sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the [d]ministry of the word.”**

**<sup>5</sup> The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. **<sup>6</sup> And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.**

And the church kept right on growing.



# The Enemy Retaliates

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**And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people.** <sup>9</sup> **But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, *including* both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and [i]Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen.** <sup>10</sup> **But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.**



# The Enemy is Desperate

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- **<sup>11</sup> Then they secretly induced men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and *against* God.”** <sup>12</sup> And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and brought him [i]before the [k]Council. <sup>13</sup> **They put forward false witnesses** who said, “This man incessantly speaks against this holy place and the Law; <sup>14</sup> for we have heard him say that this Nazarene, Jesus, will destroy this place and alter the customs which Moses handed down to us.”
- **<sup>15</sup> And fixing their gaze on him, all who were sitting in the [l]Council saw his face like the face of an angel.**
- What were they seeing?



# Get Ready to Rumble

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- The enemy will lie to you and get other people to tell lies about you, and twist the truth to discredit and destroy
- Bottom line – you have to be willing to suffer for the truth.
- We are tempted to compromise or just run away, because we are afraid of the consequences
- Our only hope, our only help, is Jesus
- We must trust His plan and His Power



# Philippians 1:18-20

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- Yes, and I will rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that this will turn out for my [q]deliverance through your [r]prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, <sup>20</sup> according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, **but *that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death***
- Tune in next week





## The Promise – The Mission – Acts 1:8

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8 **but you will receive**  
**POWER when the Holy**  
**Spirit has come upon**  
**you;** and you shall be  
**My witnesses ....**



# Power Encounters

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The Holy Spirit will give  
you the ability to tell  
what *you have*  
*experienced* - with  
*miraculous* results!!!!



# Outrageously Amazing Message!!

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY