



MOTIVATED BY THE MARTYRS

ACTS 8:1-4

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • April 10 & 11, 2021 • Acts, week 35 • Msg. 21-14

Acts 8:1 *And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*
2 *Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.* **3** *But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.*
4 *Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*
(ESV)

1. Consider _____ (v.1)

2. Remember _____ (v.2)

3. Give _____ (v.3)

4. Keep _____ (v.4)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Hebrews 11:32-40**. How does a reading of this list of Old Testament men and women who suffered for their allegiance to God and his truth motivate you? What part of this list motivates you the most and why?
2. Read **1 Peter 1:6-7** and **Matthew 10:32-33**. What kind of preparation would you suggest to a new Christian before the inevitable tests of his faith surface?
3. Read **Romans 12:2** and **2 Timothy 4:10**. What types of pressure are placed on you to compromise the truth of Christ, the gospel, or God's word in favor of conformity to our culture?

4. Read **Luke 6:22-23** and **Hebrews 10:32-36**. How can the acclaim and reward that God has promised when we endure suffering for our faith motivate you?
5. Read **2 Timothy 1:8** and **1 Peter 5:8-11**. What will you do to learn more and to think more often of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted around the world?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

April 11th

1Sam.7-9 & Lk.13:1-21

April 12th

1Sam.10-12 & Lk.13:22-35

April 13th

1Sam.13-14 & Lk.14:1-24

April 14th

1Sam.15-16 & Lk.14:25-35

April 15th

1Sam.17-18 & Lk.15:1-10

April 16th

1Sam.19-21 & Lk.15:11-32

April 17th

1Sam.22-24 & Lk.16:1-18

April 18th

1Sam.25-26 & Lk.16:19-31

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 20-44 – **The Fear of God & Our Suffering**

Msg. 14-35 – **When Following Christ is Painful**

Msg. 19-30 – **Unfazed by Sovereign Challenges**

Msg. 18-14 – **The Turbulent Intermission**

Msg. 19-39 – **When Our Light Shines in the Darkness**

Msg. 20-05 – **Expecting Opposition**

Msg. 13-38 – **When You're Ridiculed for Christ**

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Caner, Emir Fethi. **The Costly Call, Book 2: The Untold Story**. Kregel Publications, 2006.

Cochran, Gregory. **Christians in the Crosshairs: Persecution in the Bible and Around the World Today**. WBC, 2016.

Elliott, Elisabeth. **Through the Gates of Splendor**. Tyndale Momentum, 2002.

Foxe, John. **Foxe's Book of Martyrs**. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.

Hefley, James and Marti. **By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century**. Baker Books, 1996.

McKeehan, Toby and Mark Heimermann. **Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus**. Albury Publishing, 1999.

Nettleton, Todd. **When Faith is Forbidden: 40 Days with Persecuted Christians**. Moody Publishing, 2021.

Newell, Marvin. **A Martyr's Grace: 21 Moody Bible Institute Alumni Who Gave Their Lives for Christ**. Moody Pub., 2016.

Rose, Darlene Deibler. **Evidence Not Seen: A Woman's Miraculous Faith in the Jungles of WWII**. Harper Collins, 1990.

Ryle, J.C. **Five English Reformers**. (Martyrs Hooper, Taylor, Latimer, Bradford, & Ridley) Banner of Truth, 1960.

Shenton, Tim. **John Rogers – Sealed with Blood: The Story of the First Protestant Martyr of Mary Tutor**. Day 1, 2007.

St. James, Rebecca. **Sister Freaks: Stories of Women Who Gave Up Everything for God**. FaithWords, 2005

The Voice of the Martyrs. **Heroic Faith: How to Live a Life of Extreme Devotion**. Thomas Nelson, 2008.

Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.