
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 12, Bible Truth 3

The Case of the Man Who Kept on Loving Acts 6-7

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Stephen was a follower of Jesus. He heard the good news of Jesus and trusted in Him as his Savior. Stephen turned away from living life his own way to live God's good way. The Holy Spirit helped Stephen. He lived in Stephen's heart, filling him with love for God and for people.
2. But it wasn't just Stephen's heart that was full of love for God and for people. Stephen's life was, too. Stephen cared for the needy widows in the church. He taught God's Word, and he prayed. In everything Stephen did, he wanted to live out his love for God and people.
3. But there was something ELSE Stephen did that showed his love for God and others. He shared the good news of Jesus with all who would listen. "Turn away from disobeying God. Trust in Jesus as your Savior," Stephen urged all. "God will forgive your sins and make you His people."
4. Sometimes, God did amazing miracles as Stephen shared about Jesus. God did this so everyone would know that Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior. But the best miracle of all was when God's Holy Spirit helped people trust in Jesus. Stephen rejoiced to see God save so many people.
5. But while Stephen rejoiced, others were angry. "We must stop Stephen from talking about Jesus, but how?" these enemies wondered. "The people see God's amazing power in the miracles Stephen does. They see God's love in how he loves others. How can we stop him!" they exclaimed.
6. But Stephen's enemies DID think of a way. They spread lies about Stephen among the people. "Stephen is saying bad things about God's laws. He's saying bad things about God and the Temple, God's special worship place," they lied.
7. The lies worked. Even people who used to love Stephen became angry. "Stephen must be punished," they exclaimed. "Let's take him to the leaders of the Temple. Let them decide what to do with him," the people said. So, they grabbed Stephen and took him away.
8. The leaders of the Temple listened to Stephen's enemies, then questioned Stephen, "What do you say about this?" What WOULD Stephen say? Would he hate these enemies the way they had hated him? They had lied about Jesus and him, yet he had done nothing wrong to them!
9. But Stephen's heart was NOT filled with hate. It was filled with love. God's Holy Spirit was at work in Stephen, giving him wisdom to speak God's truth to help these enemies. Everyone could see it in Stephen's face which shone like an angel's, bright with God's goodness and glory.
10. "Jesus IS the Savior God promised to send, but you refused to believe in Him," Stephen told them. "YOU put Him on the cross to die," The leaders were furious! They grabbed Stephen and dragged him down the street and outside the city. Some picked up stones and threw them at him. Oh, no!
11. But even as the stones hit him, God kept helping Stephen. His heart was still filled with love for these enemies. He looked up and saw Jesus in heaven. Soon, he would be home with Him forever. "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," Stephen pleaded, as he died.
12. God's Holy Spirit had helped Stephen live and die with a heart full of love for God and for people, even his enemies. And now in heaven, Stephen would go on living and loving, even better than he had on earth. Now, he would love God and His people perfectly, forever!