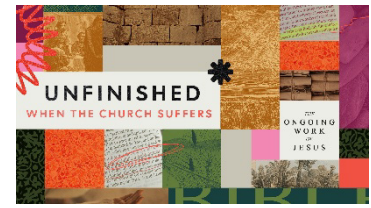


Unfinished: The Ongoing Work of Jesus  
Movement Two-The Church Embodied  
**When the Church Suffers**

Acts 6-7 | Pastor Chris Lenhart | 2/8/26



**Series Big Idea:** We, the Church, remain as a continuation of the book of Acts. The work that Jesus finished on the cross he now continues through his Spirit-filled church.

**This Week's Anchor Question:**

*How can we remain faithful to Jesus when obedience leads to suffering rather than success?*

**1. Part One: Internal Strain, Spirit-Led Wisdom**

*What does this text reveal about Jesus' mission, authority, and promises?*

- Observations from the text; Key words / phrases that stand out; What does this tell us about Jesus today, not just then?

a. **Growth Adds Pressure (6:1)**

b. **Ordering Ministry for Faithfulness (2-4)**

c. **Sharing Leadership, Trusting the Spirit (5-7)**

**2. Part Two: Stephen—A Faithful Servant**

*Where is God acting, moving, empowering, disrupting, or directing?*

- How does the Spirit show up in this passage? What changes because the Spirit is present? What assumptions or expectations are challenged?

a. **Faithfulness not Fame (8)**

b. **Opposition follows Faithfulness (9-14)**

c. **Faithfulness reflects Jesus (15)**

**3. Part Three: Telling the Story, Counting the Cost**

*Where is God acting, moving, empowering, disrupting, or directing?*

a. **Summarize Stephen's Sermon (7:1-50)**

b. **When Truth Confronts (51-53)**

c. **The Cost of Faithfulness (54-60)**

**4. A Pattern we Continue...**

*How does this text enter into and inform my current life context?*

- Where does this text intersect with my current season?
- What question does this passage ask me?
- Where might Jesus be inviting trust, obedience, or courage?

**Hyper Links**

to other

Scriptures

Acts 1-5

Exodus  
22:22; Deut.  
24:17-21

Matthew  
13:57

Luke  
23:34,46  
Acts 8:1

**Holding Tension:** *This space is left empty for unresolved questions, convictions, or prompts for further study/reading...*

## Unfinished: The Ongoing Work of Jesus

Movement Two-The Church Embodied

# When the Church Suffers

Next Steps: Home-Group Study and/or Personal Discipleship Guide

Acts 6-7

Get together as a family or with a friend or group of friends this week!

**Start with Prayer:** Ask Jesus to guide our time together. Review prayer requests.

**Opening Prompt:** How might we rightly interpret what God is doing in our historical moment, and how does our interpretation shape who we are becoming?

**Read the text from 2 different versions** – Acts 6-7

### Looking Back – Understanding the Text

1. What surprised you or stood out differently hearing the text again?
2. What seems unfinished, unresolved, or still in motion in this passage?
3. What does this text reveal about how Jesus works through ordinary people?

### Looking Inward – Formation & the Heart

4. Where do you resonate with the disciples or early church in this passage?
5. What fears, expectations, or distractions does this text gently expose?
6. How does this passage invite deeper trust in Jesus and dependence on the Spirit?

### Looking Around – Community & Witness

7. How does this text shape the way we relate to one another as a church?
8. What would it look like to live this passage out together, not just individually?
9. Where might God be positioning us for witness—near or far?

### Looking Forward – Participation in God's Ongoing Work

10. What step of obedience or attentiveness feels most pressing this week?
11. Where might Jesus be asking us to wait, pray, speak, or move?
12. Who in our lives might God be drawing toward Himself through us?

### Practical Living – This Week's Application (choose one or more)

- Write or journal a prayer to pray daily:
- What posture is this text inviting me to practice? (i.e. waiting, listening, courage, generosity, humility, surrender):
- Write or journal a person or place to intentionally engage:

### Hyper Links

to other

Scriptures

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Deut. 24:17-21

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Acts 8:1

Prayer

Requests

Family

Church

Community

Career &  
Friends

Other