



## Life Group Notes: “Make or Break” (from 19<sup>th</sup> April Sermon)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER

ACTS 7:54 – ACTS 7:60

*54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”*

*57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1) **Bad things can happen to people who serve the Lord:** Stephen was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. He performed great signs and wonders (Acts 6), yet, he is suddenly killed in Acts 7. Later on, the gospel is spread in various towns and cities as the disciples are being scattered because of persecution.
  - What is your view on why challenges and tragedies may happen to people who serve God.
- 2) **Looking up to Jesus no matter what.**
  - Stephen looked to Jesus under the challenge (v55). Please, share your view on why we should trust God and still look up to Jesus (not friends, not the church) when faced with difficulties?
- 3) **Pray through the pain:** In verse 59, Stephen did not give up but he prayed while being stoned to death. He maintained his intimacy with God and continued to look up to God while taking these stones.
  - Have you ever felt like giving up? Did you pray when things heated up and what did you learn?

### PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

- Pray that we learn to fix our eyes on Jesus alone during life’s challenges.
- Pray that we will be able to build our intimacy with the Lord during this season.
- Ask God to help you not to break but to be able to remember He is in control and to help you release good seeds around you.