

Monday

The Death of Stephen

Everyone dies eventually. Actually, there have been two men in all of human history who never died, Enoch and Elijah. Besides those two men, everyone has or will eventually die. The Bible doesn't record every death in all of human history, but there are several that can teach us valuable lessons. Today, we will look at the death of Stephen.

1. Read Acts 6:9-15 – Stephen was just appointed as one of the first deacons of the church in Jerusalem. Many people did not like what the early church was doing. In this passage they got people together and argued with Stephen. According to verse 10, were they successful in arguing with him?
2. What did they do as a result?
3. The people brought false charges against Stephen and called a council of people together to get rid of him. He gave his response in chapter 7. Read Acts 7:51-60. If you want to get the whole story, read the whole chapter. According to verse 54, were the people receptive to what Stephen had to say?
4. Stephen saw Heaven opened to him. What did he see, and then what did he say?
5. What did the people do when they heard that?
6. Being stoned was not the nicest way to die. People would throw large rocks at the victim's head until he died. What was Stephen saying as he was being stoned?

Stephen didn't try to run and hide. He didn't back down or change his message, even though he was clearly in the minority. How would you have responded in that situation? How will you respond tomorrow when your friends ridicule you for your faith? Stand strong on God's Word. Never deny it!

Tuesday

The Death of Achan

Achan and his family died together. Their death can also teach us some very important lessons about God, His character, and the consequences of our actions.

1. Read Joshua 6:17-19 – What were Joshua's instructions to the people concerning the things in the city of Jericho?
2. Read Joshua 7:1-9 – Were Joshua's instructions obeyed?
3. What happened to Israel's army as a result of Achan's disobedience?
4. What affect did Achan's sin have on Joshua?
5. Read Joshua 7:21-26 – When God finally revealed to Joshua that Achan was the one responsible for Israel's defeat, he sent messengers to check out Achan's tent. They found the gold, silver, and clothes that he had stolen buried under his tent. What benefit was all that stuff to Achan?
6. What was Achan's punishment for his sin?
7. Who else was affected?
8. Achan and his family died that day, one day after Israel's army was defeated because of his sin. Achan never even had a chance to enjoy the stuff he took. It remained buried under his tent until he died. What can you learn about sin and its consequences from Achan's story?

Sin usually has to remain secretive. If you can't participate in an action with Godly people around, you probably shouldn't be doing it. There are always consequences to sin. They might not be as dramatic as those for Achan's sin, but God is still just as displeased with your sin as Achan's.

Wednesday The Death of Moses

Many different deaths are recorded in Scripture. Moses' death is very unique. You'll discover what was so unique about his death and learn a valuable lesson from it at the same time. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Let's learn from Moses' death.

1. Read Deuteronomy 32:48-52 – Why did God tell Moses to go up to Mount Nebo?
2. Why was he not allowed to enter the promised land?
3. Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12 – What did God show Moses before He died?
4. Even though Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land, God allowed him to see it before he died? Why do you think God did that?
5. What happened to Moses after he saw the Promised Land?
6. Who buried Moses?
7. God buried Moses in an unknown place. Read verses 10-12 again and tell why you think God did that.
8. How old was Moses when he died?
9. In what kind of physical shape was Moses when he died?

God used Moses to incredible things: the ten plagues, parting the Red Sea... It would have been easy for the people to look to Moses as God. God probably didn't want them to worship Moses, so He hid him. Remember that a man of God is still a man and can make mistakes. Moses did. Never look to any person in place of God.

Thursday The Death of Korah

The stories of the other men have been quite familiar. Here's one that isn't quite so familiar. Korah's death was very dramatic, one that eyewitnesses wouldn't soon forget. Hopefully you will remember the lessons from it and not go down the same path.

1. Read Numbers 16:1-10 – From what tribe was Korah?
2. According to verse 9, what were the Levites' responsibilities?
3. Korah and his followers came against Moses and against Aaron. They were unhappy with Moses' and Aaron's authority and wanted to get some of it for themselves. What was Moses' first response in verse 4 after he heard their complaints?
4. Why did he do that?
5. Korah and his group were not happy with their responsibilities and wanted to take Moses' authority from him. Read Numbers 16:28-34 – What did Moses say would happen if Moses weren't really sent by God?
6. What did he say would happen if he really were?
7. What happened to Korah and his followers?
8. What did the rest of the people do when they saw what happened?
9. What do you think they learned from Korah's death?

God made you who you are with your gifts and abilities. He gave the authority that He did by design. Don't fight against God. Korah did, and he lost. Learn from his death and be content with the way God made you.

Friday **The Death of Haman**

The story of Esther, Mordecai, and Haman has an interesting twist of irony associated with it. We can learn a lot from his death. It's good to learn from people's mistakes. If you can learn what they did, why they did it, and what the consequences, you can avoid a huge difficulty in your own life.

1. Read Esther 3:1-6 – Why was Haman mad at Mordecai?
2. The king commanded that everyone was to bow to Haman, but Mordecai refused. Mordecai was a Jew. Why do you think he didn't bow? Do you think he was right in not bowing? Why?
3. Haman got mad at Mordecai. According to verse 6, what did he plan to do to him and all Jews?
4. Read Esther 5:9-14 – What was Haman's plan to kill Mordecai?
5. Queen Esther found out about Haman's plans. She held a feast for the king in order to gain his good favor. When she did, the king asked what she wanted. She told the king that there was a plot to kill here people. Read Esther 7:3-10 – What did the king do when he found out that Esther's people were in danger?
6. Haman ended up losing his life. How he die?
7. How does Genesis 12:1-3 apply to this story?

God has promised to bless his people and bless anyone who blesses them. He will also curse anyone who curses them. It will not be productive or beneficial to be negative towards God's people. Always be Israel's friend!

Saturday **The Death of Ananias and Sapphira**

Ananias and Sapphira had a very unique death that neither of them anticipated. They didn't die of old age or a catastrophic accident. Their death was due to a deliberate act of God. Why did He do that? What did Ananias and Sapphira do to deserve such a dramatic death?

1. Read Acts 4:36-37 – Part of the early church's care for each other involved selling goods and giving to those in need. There was total surrender of that money to be used to help others. What did Barnabas do in this passage?
2. Read Acts 5:1-11 – Ananias and Sapphira sold some of their land to be used as a sacrifice. Did they give all the money they made on the sale of the land?
3. It was the normal procedure that all the money was to be given. Ananias apparently went along and pretended that he was giving everything in order to be praised by everyone else in the church. According to verse 3, how did God view his giving?
4. Immediately after Peter rebuked him, what happened?
5. Ananias was immediately buried without a funeral. His wife, Sapphira, came along about three hours later. Maybe she was looking for him, figuring he should have been home by then. Peter asked her if she had sold the land for the price that Ananias first told. She said that it was true. What did Peter say to her then?
6. What happened to Sapphira after Peter rebuked her?

The Bible records that “great fear came upon all the church.” Everyone who heard the story sat up and took note. So should we. God does not want us to hold back anything from Him. He deserves total surrender of our entire life and all that we have. What are you holding back from Him? Give it to Him soon!

Sunday

The Death of Jesus

Of all the deaths in the Bible, this one is probably most noteworthy. His death was like none other in many ways, especially the fact that He rose again. Lazarus was raised from the dead, but he eventually died again. Jesus rose from the dead, and He lives eternally!

1. Read Matthew 26:36-39 – It's easy to see that Jesus did not want to die. He knew the physical pain that He was about to face, but what did He say to His Father even though He didn't want to die?
2. Jesus died voluntarily. Read Matthew 26:51-52 – Did Jesus try to fight back when the soldiers came to take Him?
3. Read Luke 23:32-34 – Was Jesus angry with the crowd that crucified Him?
4. Read Luke 23:44-46 – What does it mean that Jesus commended His spirit into His Father's hands?
5. What is the significance of the temple's veil being torn?
6. Read John 19:28-30 – Jesus said, "It is finished." What was finished?
7. Read Matthew 28:1-7 – What happened three days after Jesus died?
8. Mary and Mary Magdalene came to the grave on the first day of the week. Why do you think His disciples weren't there?

Jesus defeated death. He has power over death. When He said in John 11 that He is the resurrection and the life, He meant it, and He proved it on Easter morning. Even still, we meet on the Lord's Day, Sunday, to remember His power over death. Jesus is alive. No other religion can claim what Jesus did. He lives eternally!