



Synod of the Diocese of West Malaysia

**St Mary's Cathedral**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ*

## The Unstoppable Gospel (Acts 7:54-8:4)

### Read Acts 7:51-8:3

1. What did Stephen's opponents do? Why did they do these things?
2. Do you think there is a connection between what Stephen saw (v55) and how he prayed (v59-60)?
3. Complete the following table comparing the experiences of Stephen and Jesus

<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Stephen</b>
Matthew 26:59-66	Acts 6:11-14
Hebrews 13:12	Acts 7:
Luke 23:46	Acts 7:
Luke 23:34	Acts 7:
Luke 23:50-53	Acts 8:

- a) Why do you think Luke includes all these details?
- b) Recall the ways Stephen has been described to us (6:5,8; 7:55). Do these descriptions help us see how he can be so Christ-like?

4. What new character are we introduced to here? What do we learn about him?
  
5. *If you were one of the believers being persecuted at this time, how might you be tempted to respond?*
  
6. **Read Acts 8:4.** How did the scattered Christians respond to the persecution?
  
7. Recall Acts 1:8. How do we see Jesus sovereignly ruling even as his church is being ravaged?
  
8. *For Stephen, faithfulness to Jesus meant dying like him. For the Jerusalem church it meant being scattered, and taking the gospel with them. What will it mean for you this week?*
  
9. *What is one thing this passage leads you to pray for yourself?*
  
10. *What is one thing this passage leads you to pray for our church?*
  
11. *What is one thing this passage leads you to pray for the church in places where persecution is strong and deadly?*