

An Unqualified Hero

8/2020 Mark Beard

Text: Acts 6:8-15

Introduction

We expect those in uniforms to respond heroically at times due to their jobs and missions. We do not always expect, and are often surprised by, ordinary people going beyond what could be expected. Stephen was one of those ordinary people who unintentionally found himself in a situation that resulted in him becoming one of our great heroes of faith.

In the kingdom of God, how does one go from being unqualified in any way, to being qualified for greatness in the kingdom of God? Note the *characteristics* of Stephen that led to him going from ordinary to extraordinary!

- I. **Stephen Was UNQUALIFIED in The Eyes of Man to Ever Be Seen as A Hero or Even as Special.**
 - A. There's no evidence that Steven had any special training or any special ability.
 - B. What we do know is that he was a simple servant, just distributing food to those in need.

- II. **Stephen Was QUALIFIED in The Eyes of God to Be Someone He Could Use Greatly.**
 - A. Stephen's advantage was that he was filled with God's grace and power!
 - B. Stevens availability to be used by God is what God was looking for that day.

Conclusion

“What does it mean for you to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Jesus?”

The WWII martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” Jesus asks us to follow him with everything we have. How can he ask this of us? Because he bears the true burden. We carry a cross because he carried a cross first.

Study notes:

1. What he was--irreproachable
2. What he did--irrefutable
3. What he said--irresistible

He was full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, faith, grace, power

[S. Briscoe, Getting Into God, p. 36.](#)

Even as the early church was growing in numbers, problems began to erupt amidst the believers.

The early church consisted primarily of Jews who could be classified broadly into:

1. Hebrews - Jewish Christians who were from Palestine and spoke mainly Aramaic and/or Hebrew
2. Hellenists - Jewish Christians who were from outside Palestine and spoke mainly Greek

It was only in the later stage of Acts that the Gentiles accepted Christ and were added to the church primarily due to the evangelist works done by Philip (in Samaria), Peter (in the house of Cornelius) and Paul (in his missionary journeys).

Now the early church had everything in common (4:32).

Acts 4:35 says that everything was distributed to everyone according to their need.

Problem arose in the early church since the Hellenists felt that their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. This issue was addressed to the apostles who wanted the disciples to choose 7 men to serve tables.

However, apostles had set certain eligibility criteria for the selection process:

The men to be chosen must be:

1. Of good reputation
2. Full of Holy Spirit
3. Full of wisdom

[nitha Jabastion](#) on Jun 6, 2020