

# One Solitary Life

Acts 6:8—8:4

A child is born in an obscure village. He is brought up in another obscure village. He works in a carpenter shop until he is thirty, and then for three brief years is an itinerant preacher, proclaiming a message and living a life. He never writes a book. He never holds an office. He never raises an army. He never has a family of his own. He never owns a home. He never goes to college. He never travels two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He gathers a little group of friends about him and teaches them his way of life. While still a young man the tide of popular feeling turns against him. One denies him; another betrays him. He is turned over to his enemies. He goes through the mockery of a trial; he is nailed to a cross between two thieves, and when dead is laid in a borrowed grave by the kindness of a friend.

Those are the facts of his human life. He rises from the dead. Today we look back across nineteen hundred years and ask, What kind of trail has he left across the centuries? When we try to sum up his influence, all the armies that ever marched, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned are absolutely picayune in their influence on mankind compared with that of this one solitary life....

—James Allen Francis

## *The History of Israel for Dummies:*

- Abraham vs. the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joseph vs. the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Moses vs. the \_\_\_\_\_.
- David vs. the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Transformed by the Truth

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Who are the people in our generation who have had the most powerful positive impact in the lives of others? To what do you attribute their impact?

Who has impacted you most positively? Why?

2. Read Acts 6:1-8 and Acts 7:51-60. In what ways did Stephen model Christlikeness?

Which of Stephen's Christlike qualities is most challenging to you at this point in your life? Why?

3. Take the time to read Acts 7:1-50. Which verses best summarize the point Stephen is making to his accusers?
4. In general, what do you believe a person must do to progress toward Christlikeness? What habits must be developed? What character qualities must be cultivated? What resolutions must be made?
5. How did the Holy Spirit use this week's message in your life?

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