

Title: Profile in Courage

January 5, 2020

Text: Acts 6:8-15

Walk-In: What do people most notice about you? Are they the external things of appearance or clothing related items? Are they things about your temperament or character? Sometimes first impressions are lasting impressions. Today we look deeper into the profile of one of the waiters (not an unimportant position) of Acts 6. The mans name is Stephen and there are *three qualities* that are quite apparent in him that we can seriously consider emulating.

First, Stephen was a FILLED man. Acts 6:3-8

- **Full of Spirit and Wisdom** Acts 6:3
- **Full of Faith and the Holy Spirit** Acts 6:5
- **Full of Grace and Power** Acts 6:8

Then, Stephen was a FORMIDABLE man. Acts 6:8-14

Δ **An AVAILABLE man.**

*“(Stephen) did **great wonders and miraculous signs** among the people. - Acts 6:8*

Δ **An APOLOGETIC man.**

*“But they could not stand up against **his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.**” - Acts 6:10*

Δ **A COURAGEOUS man. Acts 6:11-14**

- ✓ In the face of secret conspiracy Acts 6:11
- ✓ In the face of public opposition Acts 6:12
- ✓ In the face of false accusation. Acts 6:13,14

Finally, Stephen was a RADIANT man. *“All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.” - Acts 6:15*

- Reminiscent of Moses (Exodus 34:29-35)
- Reminiscent of Jesus at Transfiguration Luke 9:29
- Reminiscent of 2 Corinthians 3:18
But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Wrap-up: The question we began with we return to - What is it that people most notice about you? Those filled by God's Spirit will exude a sense of Him that is unmistakable. An old chorus expresses it well:

*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me
All His wonderful passion and purity
O Thou Spirit divine all my nature refine
Til the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.*