

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AEaster5x2017

Text: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he [Stephen] **gazed into heaven** and **saw the glory** of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ **“Look,”** he said, **“I see** the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But **they covered their ears**, and **with a loud shout** all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they **dragged him** out of the city and **began to stone him**; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, **he prayed**, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and **cried out in a loud voice**, **“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”** When he had said this, he died.

Word - I/S, Body - I/S, People - I, Self - I/S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic D2	Parallels with Jesus’ death: L23:46-“receive my spirit,” L23:46-cried out, L23:34-“do not hold this sin against them.”	<u>Mark Twain--or someone else--said</u> , “History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes.”	Can anyone set this selection to a rhythm and rap it? (Music smart) Be certain to make the comparison with Jesus from Luke 23!
Eye - Visual/Spatial			
Math - Logical/Mathematical	How do the council members get away with this? They handed Jesus over to Pilate because the Romans wouldn’t let them utilize the death penalty. They even accused Jesus of blasphemy and couldn’t stone him.	Contrast the horror and disgust we feel at this event with the general consensus of “good job!” when the Navy Seals killed Osama bin Laden. (see also Self) <i>There is some logical inconsistency in our reactions to hearing about someone being summarily executed; sometimes, we think it’s horrible and other times we are fine with it.</i>	
Body - Kinesthetic MWD	This passage may be difficult for those who have been abused in the past (or even now).	Connecting this passage with this intelligence is tricky; we are all familiar with pain but equating	Place a bowl of stones at the end of each pew and encourage those who feel strong enough to do this

	<p>While there may be some temptation in playing up the physical torment of stoning Stephen (i.e. martyrdom), the reality is that this was torture unto death. Stephen was incredibly trusting - to which his vision of Jesus standing to receive him attests - but he was executed.</p>	<p>our pain with Stephen’s stoning may not be the best route.</p> <p>“But if we dwell too intently on images of a smiley Stephen, all pious and cherub-like, we risk passing over the ugliness of a crowd crushing a man's skull, one hurled rock at a time. If we make this passage only about Stephen, we might neglect to notice the stones littering the ground around us, which either implicate us or cause us to cry out for deliverance from cycles of violence.” ~Matt Skinner, Working Preacher</p> <p>Plus: “If the Easter story means anything, it had better mean that God promises an end to this way of doing business. And that God can save us from ourselves.”</p>	<p>to take one and hold it in their hand while you read the passage. Allow for some time to reflect about how the stone feels, how much force/energy it would take to throw it at someone with the intent to harm them, what that stone might represent for that person. (see Nature) (see Self below)</p> <p>Chuck a rock at a target (Cardboard cutout? Clay pot? Pork loin?) to show what sort of damage it can do. (see Nature)</p>
Musical			See Word above
Natural			See Body
<p>People - Interpersonal D2</p>	<p>Millions [...] have been martyred for reasons other than religion — for their ethnicity (Jews, Armenians, Tutsis), for economic ideology (farmers, land holders), social prejudice (intellectuals, artists), race (American blacks), and gender (women around the world). ~Dan Clendenin, Journey with Jesus</p>	<p>Dogmatic ideologues who won’t listen to anything that might contradict their dogma: [looking for examples - so far fruitless on Google; too many to count, perhaps?]</p> <p>“If you are truly convinced that there is some solution to all human problems, that one can conceive an ideal society which men can</p>	

	<p>“What killed Stephen still snuffs out life, but we need to see that it is active wherever the appeal to love as the highest priority is resisted and violence is preferred as somehow "right" or even as "just".” ~William Loader</p>	<p>reach if only they do what is necessary to attain it, then you and your followers must believe that no price can be too high to pay in order to open the gates of such a paradise. Only the stupid and malevolent will resist once certain simple truths are put to them. Those who resist must be persuaded; if they cannot be persuaded, laws must be passed to restrain them; if that does not work, then coercion, if need be violence, will inevitably have to be used—if necessary, terror, slaughter.” — Isaiah Berlin !!!!</p>	
<p>Self - Intrapersonal MWD</p>		<p>Check your own ideologue tendencies by Matthew Rozsa, ‘Professional Pundit’ This link is to a blog post and not a scientific or psychological profiling tool, so it’s not fully diagnostic. Just so you know.</p> <p>For those who persist in God’s way, suffering awaits. The stakes are high. Jesus is Lord, but he and his followers will be resisted.</p> <p>(Please curb your dogma.)</p>	<p>See Body above.</p> <p>Is the stone anger? Fear? Resentment? Bitterness? Condemnation? Judgement?</p> <p>What would it take for you to actually throw it? At whom?</p> <p>What would you do with it if you heard Jesus say, “Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone.”</p> <p>How about, “As you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me.”?</p>