



ACTS

CHRIST BUILDS
HIS CHURCH

Stiff Necks & Hard Hearts | Acts 6:8-7:53

MAIN POINT

The gospel is an offense to those seeking to preserve their own self-righteousness.





The gospel offends the
self-righteous because it
challenges their **source**
of **confidence**



The gospel offends the
self-righteous because it
challenges their **need**
for **deliverance**

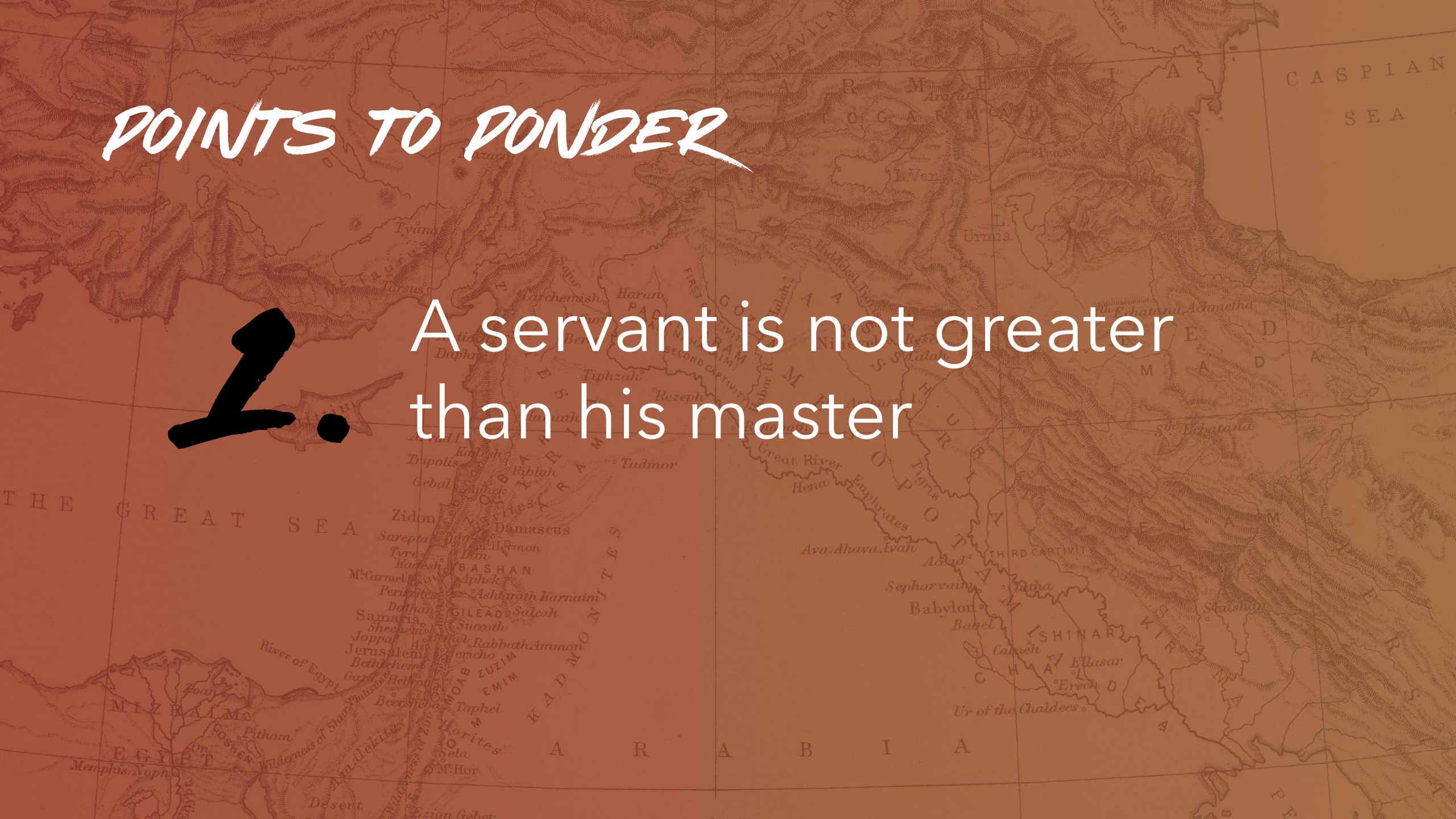


The gospel offends the
self-righteous because
it challenges their
relationship to God

POINTS TO PONDER



A servant is not greater than his master



POINTS TO PONDER

3.

Only God can change
a heart





ACTS

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HIS CHURCH

EPHESIANS

“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER.”

3:20-21

“Stiff Necks and Hard Hearts”
Acts 6:8-7:53 – Pastor Scott Gnuse

MAIN POINT: The gospel is an offense to those seeking to preserve their own self-righteousness.

The gospel offends the self-righteous because...

- It challenges their _____ of _____

- It challenges their _____ for _____

- It challenges their _____ to _____

Points to Ponder

Growing Deeper

1. Consider the character of Stephen in this story. What are some lessons we can learn from his stance amid great opposition? How does Stephen's persecution resemble that of Jesus?
2. As you survey the landscape of cultural Christianity in America, how do you see people putting their confidence for salvation in the wrong place? Where do you see these tendencies in your own relationship with the Lord?
3. Why was Israel's pride in the temple misplaced? What did it reveal about the way they related to God? What might be some parallels be to our own day and time?
4. Have you ever experienced resistance from someone seeking to defend their own self-righteousness? What happened? How did you respond? What did you learn from this interaction? What would you do differently next time?

Heart Preparation: Prepare your heart for worship on 06/07 by reading and meditating on Acts 7:54-8:4.

Prayer Prompt: Almighty God, thank You for saving a sinner like me! Help me to be bold to share the good news of the gospel with others, even when the opposition against me grows increasingly heavy. Melt the hard hearts of the self-righteous and grant them salvation in Your perfect timing. Amen.

Reaching Farther

Family: As a family, talk with your children about the difference between a hard heart and a soft heart. Why is a soft heart so important for receiving the gospel? You can use Jesus' parable of the soils to discuss the different types of responses people have to the gospel message. Follow this up by asking your children if they believe their hearts are hard or soft? What evidence can they give for their answer?

Community: Pray for two or three people within your sphere of influence who are currently displaying a stiff neck or a hard heart toward God. Ask God to break them of their self-righteousness. You can also use this as a chance to pray for greater boldness to share your faith, just like Stephen.