

“The Choosing of the Seven”

Acts 6:1-7

July 6, 2025

Acts 6.1-7

6 In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. 2 The Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, “It would not be right for us to give up preaching the word of God to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 This proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a convert from Antioch. 6 They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

Main Idea - Restoration and Redemption are found through serving one another.

1. The Problem - a conflict
2. The Solution - serving
3. The Result - salvation

The Problem – Widows are feeling neglected.

It helps us to know the Bible is true because Luke is honest, and we should be honest about our church.

Hellenistic (Greek-speaking) Jew vs Hebraic (Aramaic-speaking) Jews.

Should they have complained?

Exodus 22:22-24

22 “You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. 23 If you do mistreat them, they will no doubt cry to me, and I will certainly hear their cry. 24 My anger will burn, and I will kill you with the sword; then your wives will be widows and your children fatherless.

Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do everything without grumbling and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.

Unity is preserved.

- Are you and your interest the primary focus of the complaint?
- Is the thing you are upset about something that God is upset about?
- Are you willing to be part of the solution?

The Solution – “Keep the main thing the main thing”

They look for Godly men. No other qualification is mentioned.

The men serve and serving changes everything.

- It makes us friends.
- It makes us love.
- It completes the church.
- It makes us like Christ.

Romans 12:3-8

3 For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. 4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, 5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. 6 According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion of one's faith; 7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; 8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving, with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

Matthew 20:28

28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

It won't stop there; Steven and Phillip go onto to be incredibly bold in their proclamation of the gospel.

The Result – Salvation and Growth

Life Group Discussion Questions

- Discuss a time you were served by someone and it changed you?
- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Why must prayer and proclamation be central in the ministry of the church? What are ways we make sure they receive appropriate emphasis?
- What do you think is the difference between raising a concern and complaining? How can we know when a concern is worth raising? Can you think of a time where you complained about something but later regretted?
- Why does it matter that Christ came to serve?
- What stands out to you about the qualifications for these men who were appointed to take on this ministry (see v. 3)? What does this have to teach us?
- Can you talk about a relationship that was healed, how was it healed?
- What was the result of the problem in this passage (see v. 7)? Why is it significant?
- From your Life Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?