

January 21, 2018
Acts 6:1-8

CALLED TO SERVE

I. Introduction:

- “Roughing The Pastor”
- Complaints Against The Apostles

II. Unpacking The Passage:

A. The Growth Of The Church:

“1] In those days when the number of disciples was increasing,” Acts 6:1

The Attack Of Satan – John Stott

“(this attack of the devil) was the cleverest of the three. Having failed to overcome the church by either persecution, or corruption, and now the attack of Satan is through distraction. If Satan could preoccupy the apostles with church administration they would neglect their God-given responsibilities to pray and to preach the Word of God, and so leave the church without any defense against false Doctrine.”

B. The Complaint Against The Apostles:

“the Grecian Jews among them **complained** against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.” Acts 6:1

C. The Priorities Of The Apostles:

“2] So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.” Acts 6:2

D. The Proposal:

Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit of wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4] and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:3-4

E. The Response To The Proposal:

“5] This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.”

F. The Seriousness Of Spiritual Leadership:

6] They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.” Acts 6:6

G The Result Of The Proposal:

“7] So the word of God spread.” The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” (Vs. 7)

H. The Character of Stephen:

8] Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.” Acts 6:8

III. Conclusion and Application:

POINTS TO PONDER
Week of January 22nd to 27th
Acts 6:1-17

Open It

1. When working as part of a team, do you prefer to "do the work" or to lead and coordinate others?
2. *If you could spend next Saturday morning doing anything you like, what would you do?
3. If you had to spend next Saturday morning leading a Bible study, praying with other Christians, or serving breakfast to a group of widows, which activity would you choose? Why?

Explore It

4. *What complaint did the Grecian Jews make? (6:1)
5. *What did the apostles—the Twelve—do in response to criticism? (6:2-4)
6. Why did the Twelve choose prayer and teaching over caring for the poor? (6:2-4)
7. What did the Twelve tell the other believers to do? (6:3)
8. *How did the group respond to the apostles' proposal? (6:5)
9. Who was selected to serve the widows? (6:5)
10. Who chose the seven candidates? (6:5)
11. How were the men given authority to do their task? (6:6)
12. What was the effect of the appointment of certain people to serve the widows? (6:7)
13. How did the church fare after the apostles delegated the serving of food to others? (6:7)

Get It

14. In what ways do the people of your church differ from one another?
15. What different ethnic or cultural groups are there in your church?
16. How can differences among believers cause friction?
17. What benefits and challenges arise from having different kinds of people in your church?
18. *How should we deal with tensions arising from differences between church members?
19. What qualities must Christian leaders have to resolve differences between believers?
20. How could your church ensure that no one group of people is neglected?
21. About what do we tend to complain most?
22. What complaints arise in your church most often?
23. *How can we learn to channel our complaints into solutions?
24. In what ways can you use your gifts and skills in your church?

Apply It

25. How can you help free your church leaders to focus on their mission of prayer, evangelism, and teaching?