

Series "God At Work" Book of Acts
"Growing Pains"
Acts 6:1-7
Study 12

Acts 6:1 disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews (Greek Speaking)

Frontal Attack - Persecution – Satan had the Apostles arrested two different times.

The Back Door Attempt – Compromise, Corruption From Within.

Now Preoccupation (Distraction) of the Apostles.

Thought Of The Passage: A Church That Follows God's Priorities Will Spread His Word, Disciple The Believers, And See The Conversion Of The Lost.

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| 1. Verse 1 | The Church Problem |
| 2. Verses 2-4 | The Apostles' Priority |
| 3. Verses 5-6 | The New Partners |
| 4. Verse 7 | The Lord's Power |

1. Verse 1 The Church Problem:

Acts 6:1 Now at this time Context - The Apostles had just been arrested and beaten. **Acts 5:40-42**

And every day, in the temple - Serving God was daily not just for Sundays.

and from house to house, - fellowshipping, building relationships, Hospitality.

they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Gospel continued.

Calvary Chapel Rialto's Mission/Purpose: To Exalt The Lord, Edify His Church, and Evangelize The Word.

while the disciples were increasing in number, -
persecution and pressures.

**Growth Followed the Arrest, Beating, Teaching,
Preaching: Acts 5:42**

**Growth Followed The Purging of Sin in The Fellowship:
Acts 5:14**

complaint – *“murmuring, grumbling”* With the new growth not
all were happy.

It is never right for Believers to grumble and complain.
Murmuring of Israel **Numbers 16:41-50** that resulted in the
death of **14,700** people.

on the part of the Hellenistic Jews – These were Greek-
speaking Jews (Dispersed from Babylonian captivity) that had
lived outside of Judea.

Native Hebrews, These would be the Aramaic speaking Jews,
(Those who returned under Ezra and Nehemiah) that practiced
all the customs of the Jews.

because their widows played an important part in the new
church. **Acts 9:41; 1 Tim. 5:3-16**

**were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. (The
Newcomers Were Not Being Treated Equally)** The Apostles
were overseeing the Church. **Acts 4:35**

Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.
Galatians 3:28 for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**The increase in growth added more oversight and
responsibility to the Apostles teaching, preaching, prayer
discipleship.**

2. Verses 2-4 The Apostles' Priority

Acts 6:2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the
disciples **1st Congregational Church Meeting On Record.**

Apostolic Priority Was The Word: and said, "It is not desirable – *“reasonable, fitting, pleasing”* for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

serve tables, the word **serve** – is the same verb from which we get the noun *“deacon”* from. The word **“Deacon”** is not used here.

Before Paul’s first imprisonment, the office of the Deacon was already in operation. **Philippians 1:1** Ministry Description in **1 Timothy 3:8-12**.

The title Deacon is not here, so the focus is on “Service” not the “Title.”

The Danger of Neglecting God’s Word: As ministers of Jesus Christ in the Church, the Word must take precedence over the administrative, social duties.

Romans 10:13-14; 1 Timothy 4:13, 16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5

in order to serve tables. Meeting the needs of the saints is important but it comes out of a spiritually fed Church!

Acts 6:3 *“Therefore, what is the therefore, therefore?
“Apostles were not going to neglect the Word in order to wait on tables.”*

brethren, select from among you - The assembly did the Choosing while the Apostles did the Appointing.

Five Qualifications For The New Servants:

- 1. Servants Were Believers From The Fellowship: "But select from among you, Ephesians 4:11-13**
- 2. Servants Were Men: seven men** - I am not saying that women cannot serve in the church! But the leadership of God’s house has been given over to spiritual men. Even the term **“Elder”** is masculine.

seven men – The number **#7** is completeness.

3. Servants With Good Reputation: of good reputation,
The business dealings, morally, faithful, honest, not given
to anger, trustworthy. **1 Timothy 3:7 5:10; Titus 1:6**

4. Servants Were Spirit Filled: full of the Spirit
Ephesians 5:18-21 Joy, Thankfulness, Submissive.

5. Servants Full of Wisdom: and of wisdom, whom we
may put in charge of this task.

Acts 6:4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to
the ministry of the word."

we will devote ourselves *"give ourselves continually."*
Apostles' Commitment To Prayer And The Word:

Devotional Prayer – devote ourselves to prayer, Note
prayer is first! (The Power)

Preparation Of The Word – to the ministry of the
word." The Pastor/Teacher better like to study, or they are
not called to teach. The study and preparation.

Ministry – the root word is *"dust" the idea of raising,*
kicking up dust in a hurry.

Presentation Of The Word – to the ministry of the
word." All other issues of administration must take a
backseat to the instruction of the Word.

3. Verses 5-6 The New Partners:

Acts 6:5 statement found approval with the whole
congregation; What a miraculous thing to see the whole
congregation in support of something!

and they chose - Who was it that choose? Disciples put forth
and the Apostles chose.

Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, - We will see that God is going to use this man. **Acts 6:8** We will see this man in action - First martyr.

Acts 6:6 and after praying, - asked the Lord's wisdom for them, and the blessing of God.

they laid their hands on them. Imparting of blessing, Identifies them with the work.

4. Verse 7 The Lord's Power:

Acts 6:7 The Word Was Faithfully Proclaimed - The word of God kept on spreading;

The Word Resulted In Increased Discipleship - and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem,

"Healthy sheep produce healthy sheep!"

The Word Resulted In The Conversion Of Many Priests - and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (Luke 1 Zacharias.)

Application:

1. The Focus In Ministry Should Be Our Service, Not A Title.
2. The Apostles Knew That God Wanted To Use Others, Not Just Themselves.
3. A Church That Is Not Consistently Fed The Word Becomes An Easy Target To Becoming Sidetracked And Missing Its Mission.
4. A Church That Follows God's Priorities Will Spread His Word, Disciple The Believers, And See The Conversion Of The Lost.