

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Jerusalem

Lesson 6 Deacons to the Rescue!

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Introduction: At the end of Chapter 5 we see some amazing things happening within the 1st century church. We saw that through persecution was great opportunity to witness and the Holy Spirit producing fruit in the life of the Apostles and His disciples. We also see that God's plan will always be accomplished and that God uses people as His chosen instrument to spread the Gospel. In this next chapter we will see a shift in the methods used by the early church in the ministry towards the Saints. This method was God ordained and blessed as we see multiplication continue. As we see these events we must keep in mind that each one is hinged upon the other and plays a part in the Acts 1:8 mission of World Evangelism.

Deacon – Comes from a Greek word (diakanos) that simply means servant

I. The need

- a. **(V1)** The number increased
- b. **(V1)** The complaints increased
- c. **(V1)** The responsibility increased

II. The priorities of ministry

- a. **(V2-5)** Duties of the Apostles
 - i. Study of God's Word
 1. We should be students of God's Word
 2. 1 Timothy outlines the minimums of a Pastor
 - ii. Praying continually
 1. We should spend much time in prayer
 - iii. Ministry of the Word
 1. Discipleship
 2. Teaching
 3. Family devotions
 4. Iron sharpening Iron friendships
 5. Preaching
- b. **(V2-5)** Duties of the Deacons (Servants)
 - i. Serving the people
 1. Daily ministrations
 2. Visiting widows and shut-ins
 3. Checking on individuals

III. The qualities of servants

- a. Men of Honest Report

- b. Full of the Holy Ghost
- c. Full of Wisdom
- d. Full of Faith
- e. Faithful

IV. The results

- a. **(V7)** The Word of God increased
- b. **(V7)** The Number of Disciples increased
- c. **(V7)** The influences increased

V. A Snapshot of a Servant

- a. **(V8, 10, 15)** Stephen's Testimony
 - i. Full of Faith
 - ii. Full of Wisdom
 - iii. Full of the Holy Ghost
- b. **(V9,11-13)** Stephen's Adversaries
 - i. Workers of the World
 - 1. Libertines , Cyrenians, Alexandrians
 - 2. Lied in order to convict
 - a. Blasphemy against Moses
 - b. Blasphemy against God
 - c. Jesus is God
- c. **(V10, 15)** Stephen's Power
 - i. "And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake."
 - ii. "And all that sat on council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel."
 - iii. Stephen's ability was based directly of His walk with the Lord