

ACTS 6; October 7; Qualifications For Seven Deacons

ANALYSIS:

1. Who was murmuring in the Jerusalem church and why? _____

2. How did the 12 apostles solve this problem, and why didn't they do it themselves? _____
3. What qualification did the seven men have to meet to be chosen servers (deacons)? _____
4. What did we learn about Stephen and God's power on him?

5. What did unbelieving Jews resort to in their attempt to silence Stephen? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Here at the early beginning of the gospel church, we see the need and success of two distinct classes of church officers. The twelve apostles of that early church were emphatic about giving themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. If apostles recognized this necessity, surely pastors today must prioritize these exercises in daily life and service to Christ and His people. Therefore, the apostles led the church to select seven spiritual qualified men to attend to the temporal matter of serving tables by distributing funds or food to widows. The result of the above choices was the word of God increased, the number of disciples multiplied greatly and many priests were converted. Amen!

Let us pray for our pastor. Let us encourage him in prayer and the ministry of the word. Let us protect his time from unnecessary and long phone calls or other time consuming actions. Let us, who are able, take the imitative to watch over the many temporal matters of our church so these will not require his time, attention and participation unless he chooses and/or is required to be involved.

HELP:

1. The Grecians were murmuring against the Hebrews because their widows were not being given equal treatment (v 1).
2. The apostles asked the multitude of disciples to pick seven spiritual men with good reputations to serve the widows. They (the apostles) explained that they should not leave prayer and the ministry of the word to serve tables (v 2-4).
3. Seven men, of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost an wisdom (v 3).
4. He was full of faith and power, he did great wonders and miracles, he boldly spake to the Jewish synagogue leaders who disputed with him, but were not able to resist his wisdom and spirit (vs 8-10).
5. The Jews "suborned" witnesses, meaning those who lie under oath, to try to turn the people against Stephen (vs 11-14).