

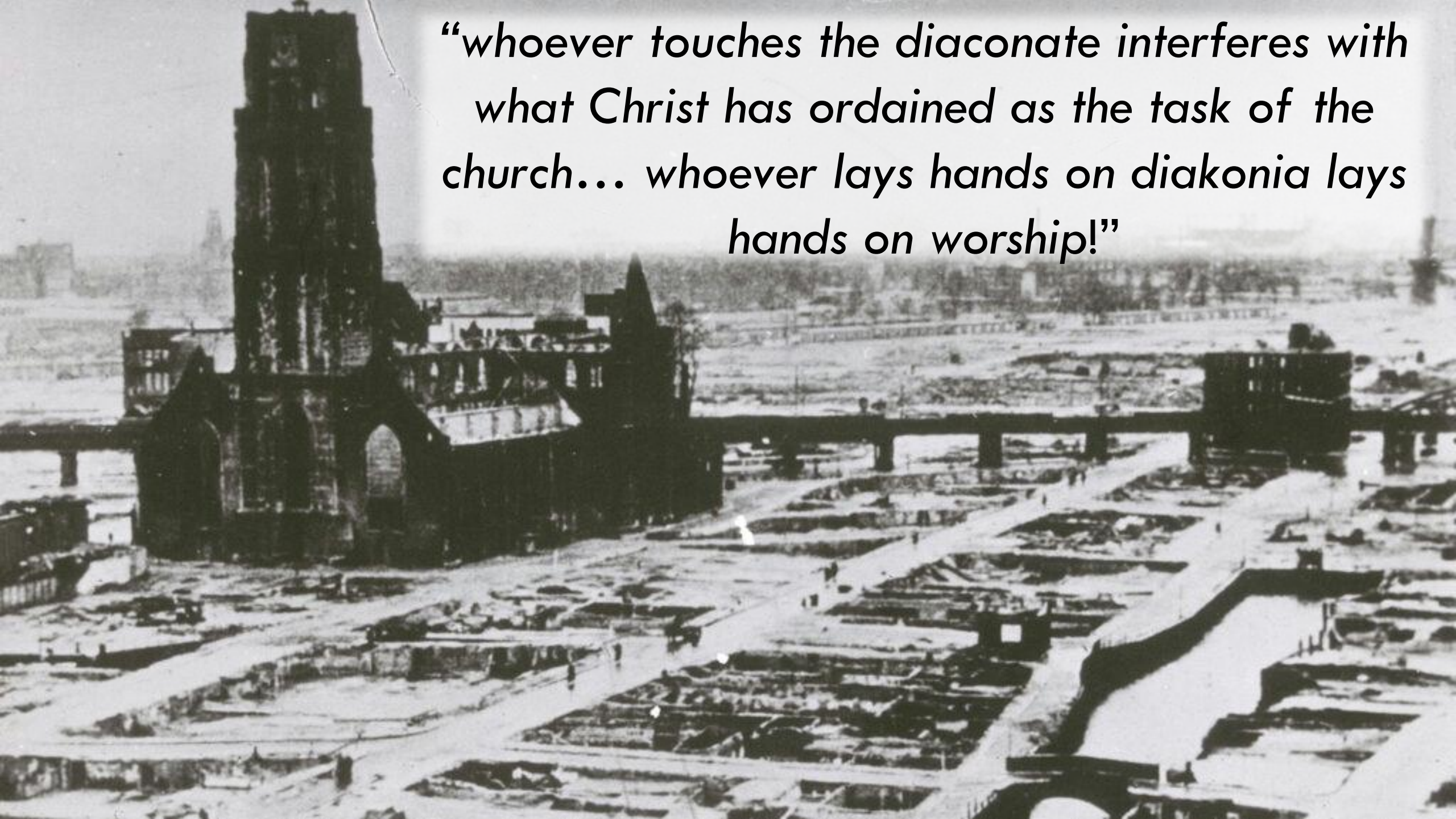


How We Gather

Assisted by Deacons



*“whoever touches the diaconate interferes with
what Christ has ordained as the task of the
church... whoever lays hands on diakonia lays
hands on worship!”*

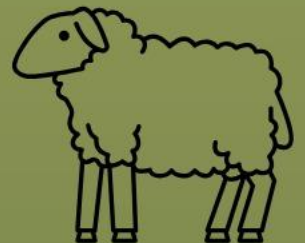




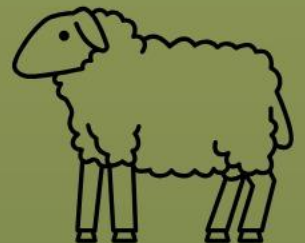
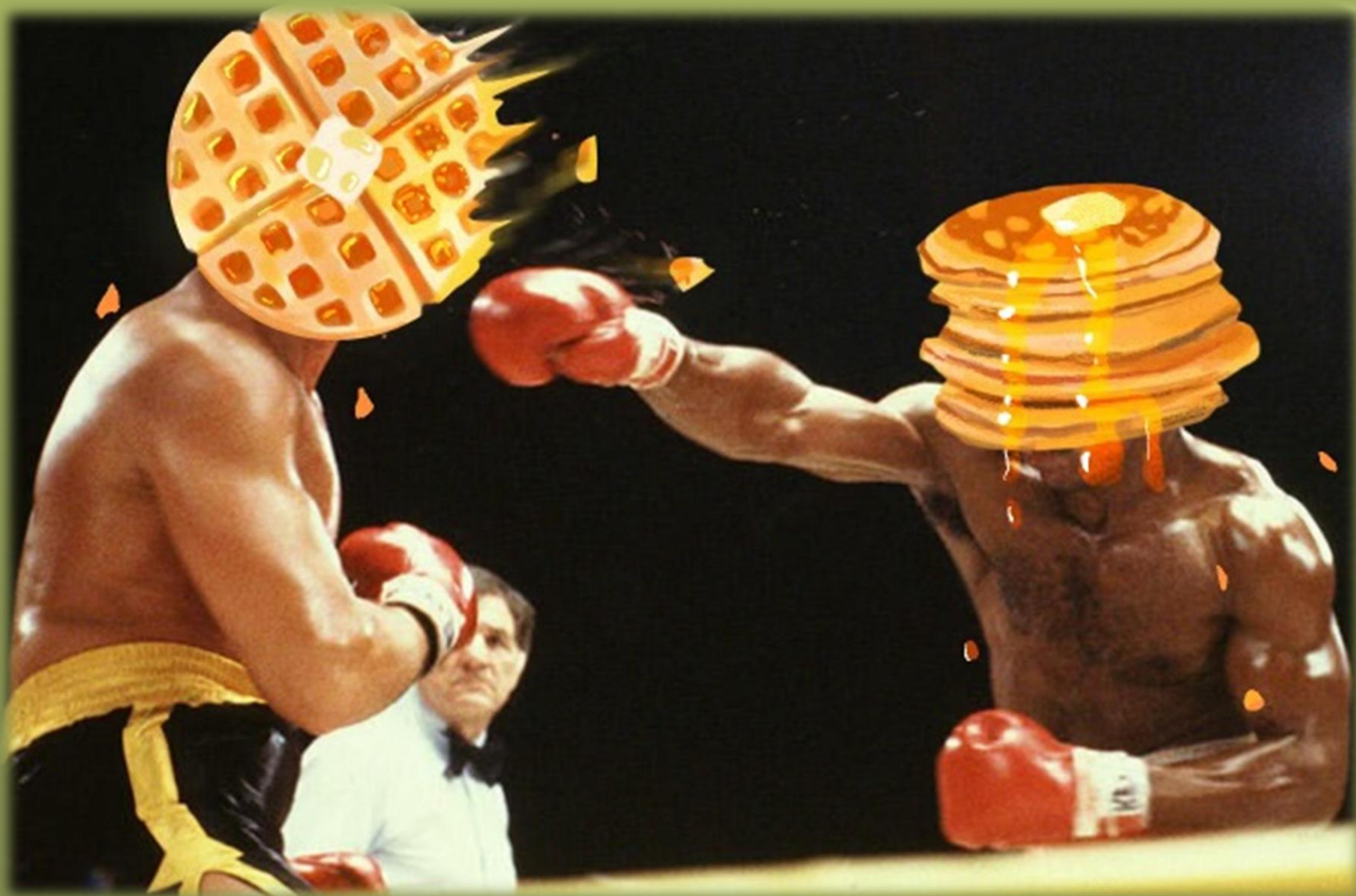
How We Gather

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1. The Need for Deacons

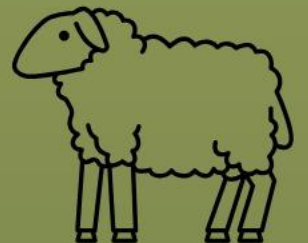


1. The Need for Deacons



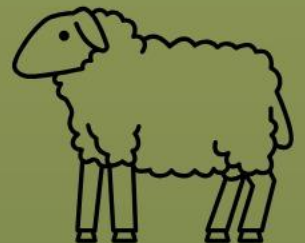
1. The Need for Deacons

- Acts 6.1-7 (CSB): First Century Food Fight



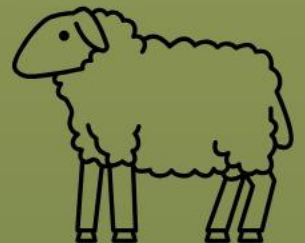
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- Acts 6.1-7 (CSB): First Century Food Fight
- ¹ In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution.
- Growth problems



Hellenistic (Greek-speaking) women
(widows, possibly from the wider city
and Greek community)

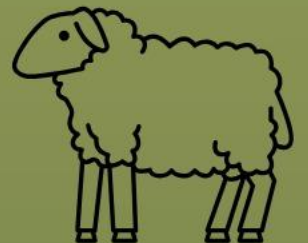
Hebraic (Jewish) women
(widows, from the Jewish community)





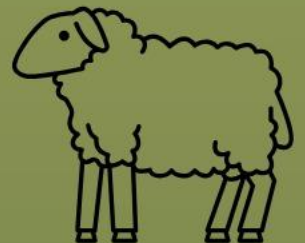
More than a food fight: church's unity at stake

2. The Purpose of Deacons



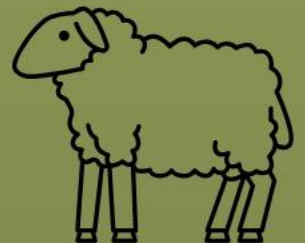
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- Deacon (Greek *diakonos*): someone who serves Christ by serving others



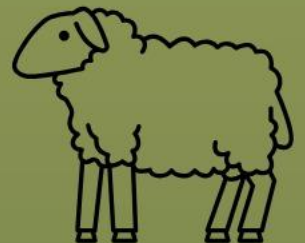
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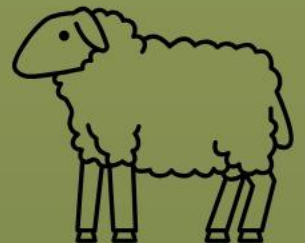
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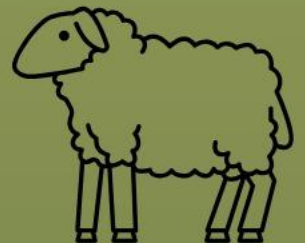
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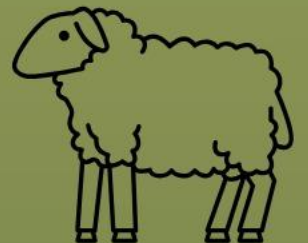
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- Acts 6.2 “to wait on (*diakoneo*) tables”



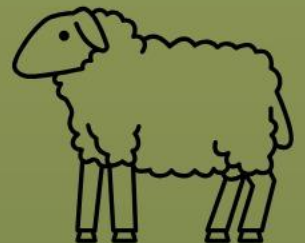
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- Sparse deacon details!



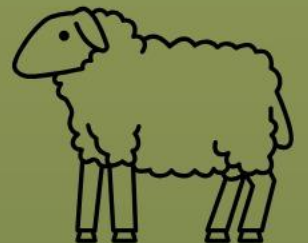
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- Sparse deacon details!
- *“if we ask why their representative functions are not more closely defined, then surely the answer is this: ministry arises from the nature and needs of the church, not vice versa”* – Robert Thune



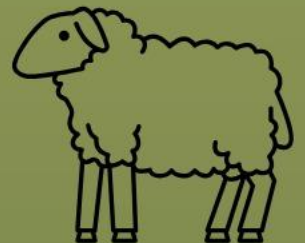
2. The Purpose of Deacons

- A) Preserving unity of the church



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- A) Preserving unity of the church
- Deacon = problem solver



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- A) Preserving unity of the church
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 - 1) Sees a problem



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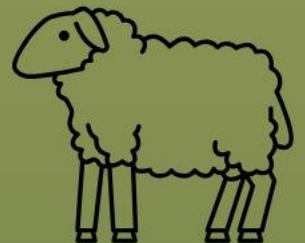
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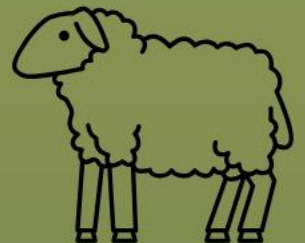
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- B) Serving tables so elders can serve the Word



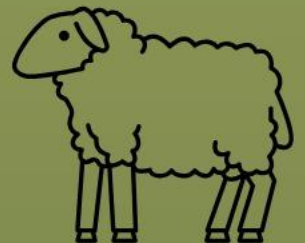
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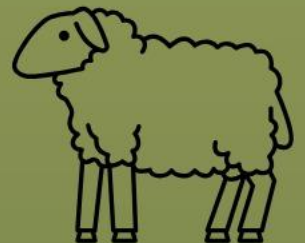
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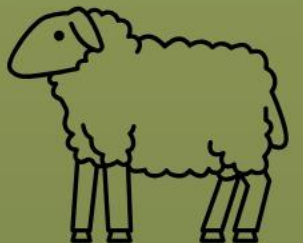
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 - ³ ...select from among you seven men.... we can appoint to this duty.
 - ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”



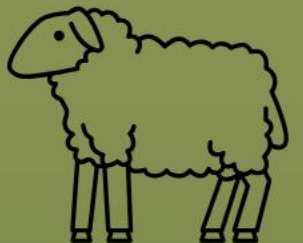
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- B) Serving tables so elders can serve the Word
- The enemy of “the best” is “the good”
- Beware the tyranny of the urgent



2. The Purpose of Deacons

- B) Serving tables so elders can serve the Word
- Good deacons:



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- Good deacons:
 - 1) Spot practical needs



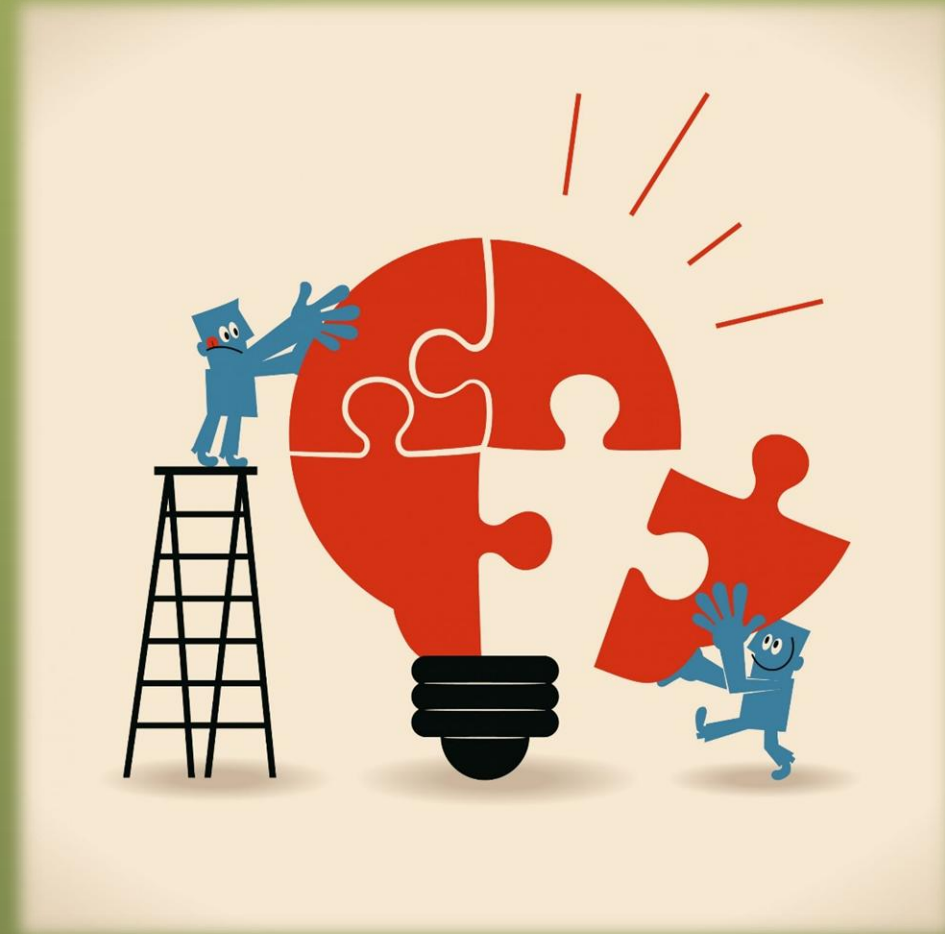
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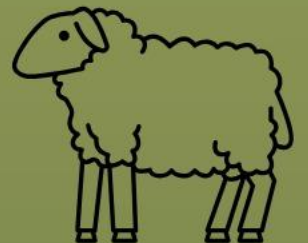
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- Carmen: worship



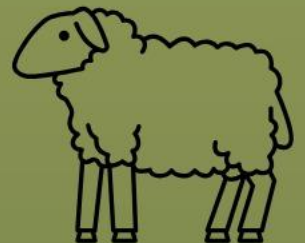
2. The Purpose of Deacons

- C) Meeting real, tangible needs



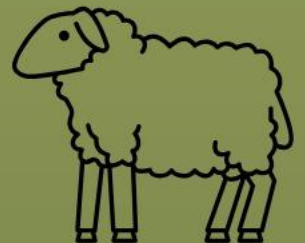
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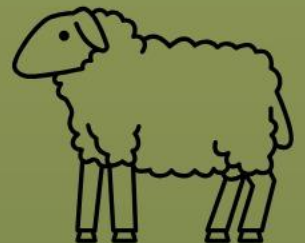
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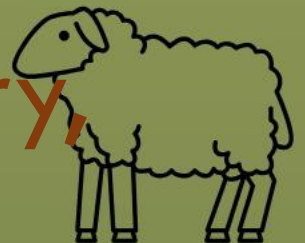
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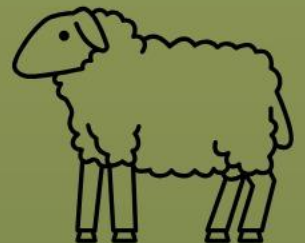


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- Elders: primarily responsible for spiritual care
- Deacons: primarily responsible for tangible care
- Elders lead ministry, deacons facilitate ministry,
congregation does ministry

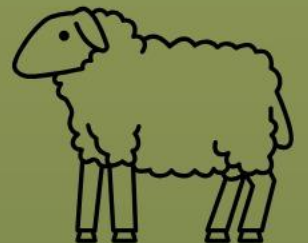


3. The Qualifications of Deacons



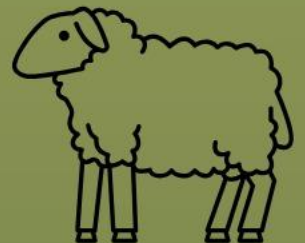
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- Two offices in New Testament:



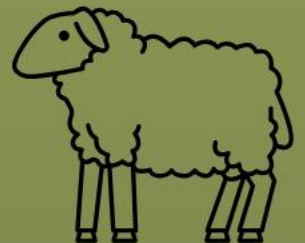
3. The Qualifications of Deacons

- Two offices in New Testament:
- Philippians 1.1
- Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus:
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in
Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.



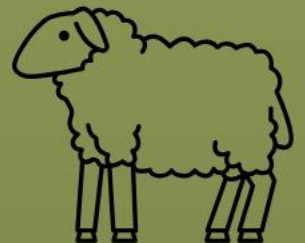
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- 1 Timothy 3.8-13 – Deacon qualifications



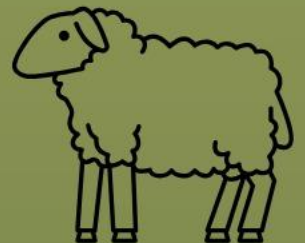
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- 1 Timothy 3.8-13 – Deacon qualifications
- A) Character



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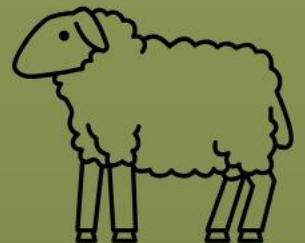
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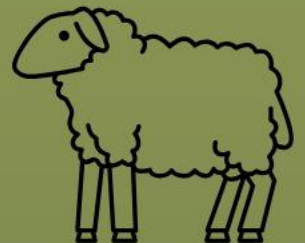
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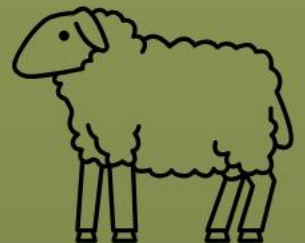
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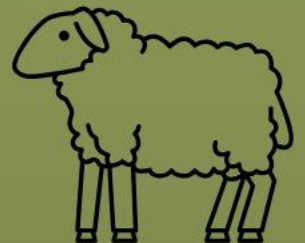
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 - ¹¹ Wives, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything.
 - ¹³ For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves



3. The Qualifications of Deacons

- 1 Timothy 3.8-13 – Deacon qualifications
- A) Character
 - Tested (vs 10)



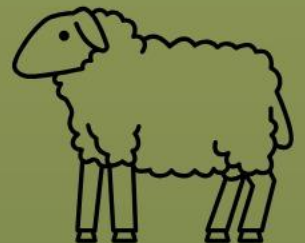
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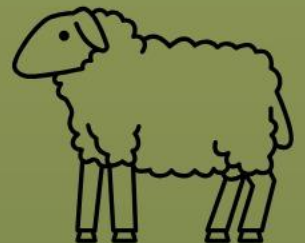
- Tested (vs 10)

- ¹⁰ They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons.



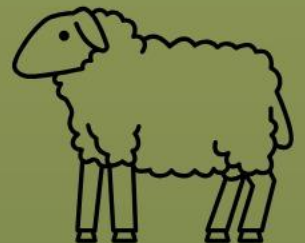
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- 1 Timothy 3.8-13 – Deacon qualifications
- A) Character
 - Tested (vs 10)
 - Starts in the home (vs 12)



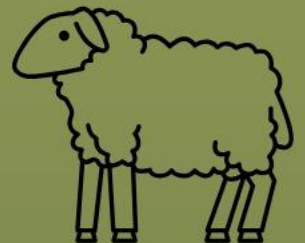
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- 1 Timothy 3.8-13 – Deacon qualifications
- A) Character
 - Tested (vs 10)
 - Starts in the home (vs 12)
 - ¹² Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently.



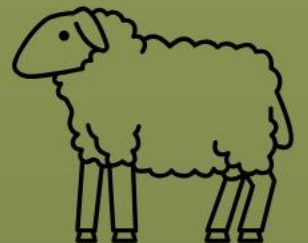
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- A) Character
- B) Confession



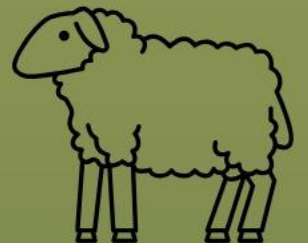
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- A) Character
- B) Confession
 - “holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” vs 9
 - “great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.” vs 13



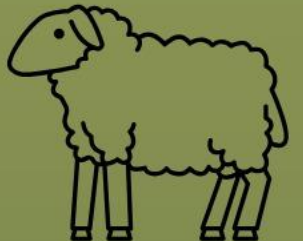


3. The Qualifications of Deacons

- Can women serve as deacons?

b

b

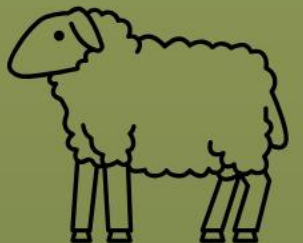


3. The Qualifications of Deacons

- Can women serve as deacons?
 - We believe and practice “yes”, as a church, but good arguments on both sides

b

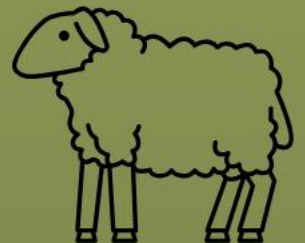
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- 1 Timothy 3.1 1
Wives, [b] likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything.

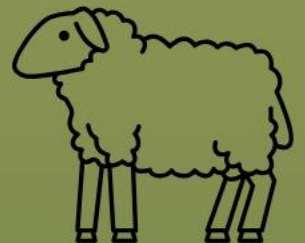
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Wives, [b] likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything.

- [b] or women

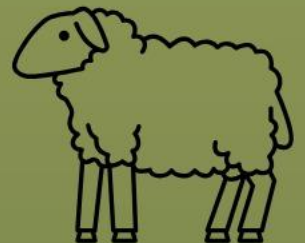


3. The Qualifications of Deacons

- Can women serve as deacons?

- 1 Timothy 2:12

I do not allow a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; instead, she is to remain quiet.

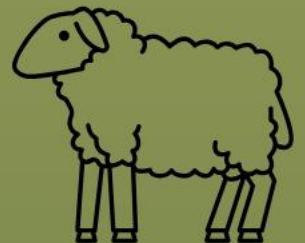


3. The Qualifications of Deacons

- Can women serve as deacons?

- Romans 16.1

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae.



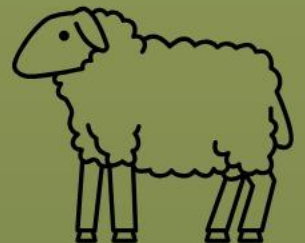
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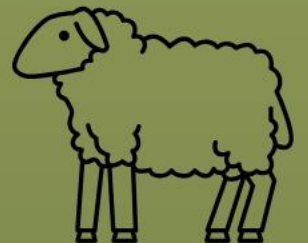
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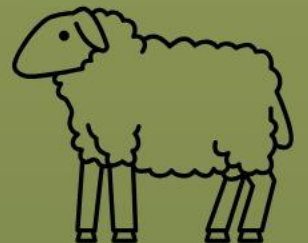
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- Common practice in early church history

- Taught by Origen, Calvin, Spurgeon



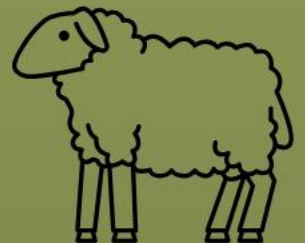
4. The Choosing of Deacons



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- Acts 6

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.

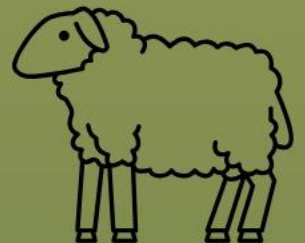


4. The Choosing of Deacons

- Acts 6

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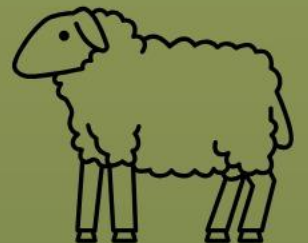
- ⁶ They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.



**“I see in you”
conversations**

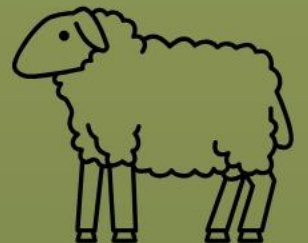


5. The Result of Healthy Deacons



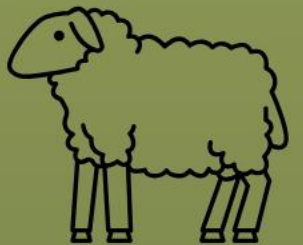
5. The Result of Healthy Deacons

- Acts 6.7 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.

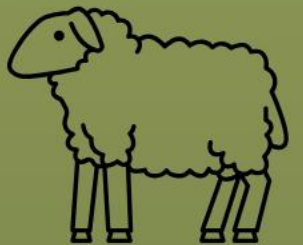


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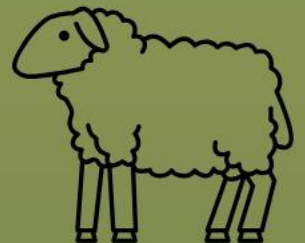


6. The Heart of a Deacon: Jesus, the Ultimate Servant



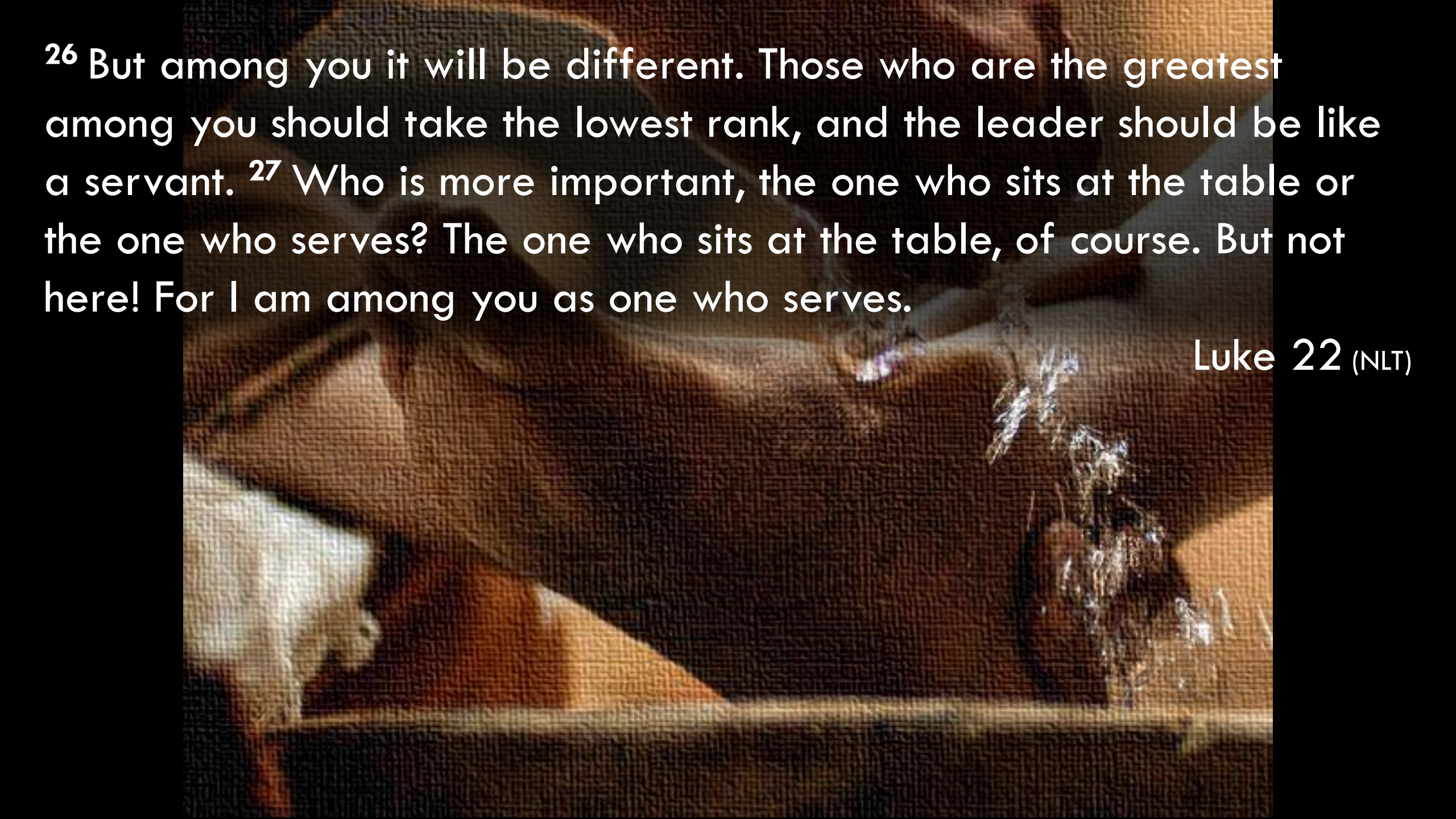
6. The Heart of a Deacon: Jesus, the Ultimate Servant

- Why would anyone wanna be a deacon??



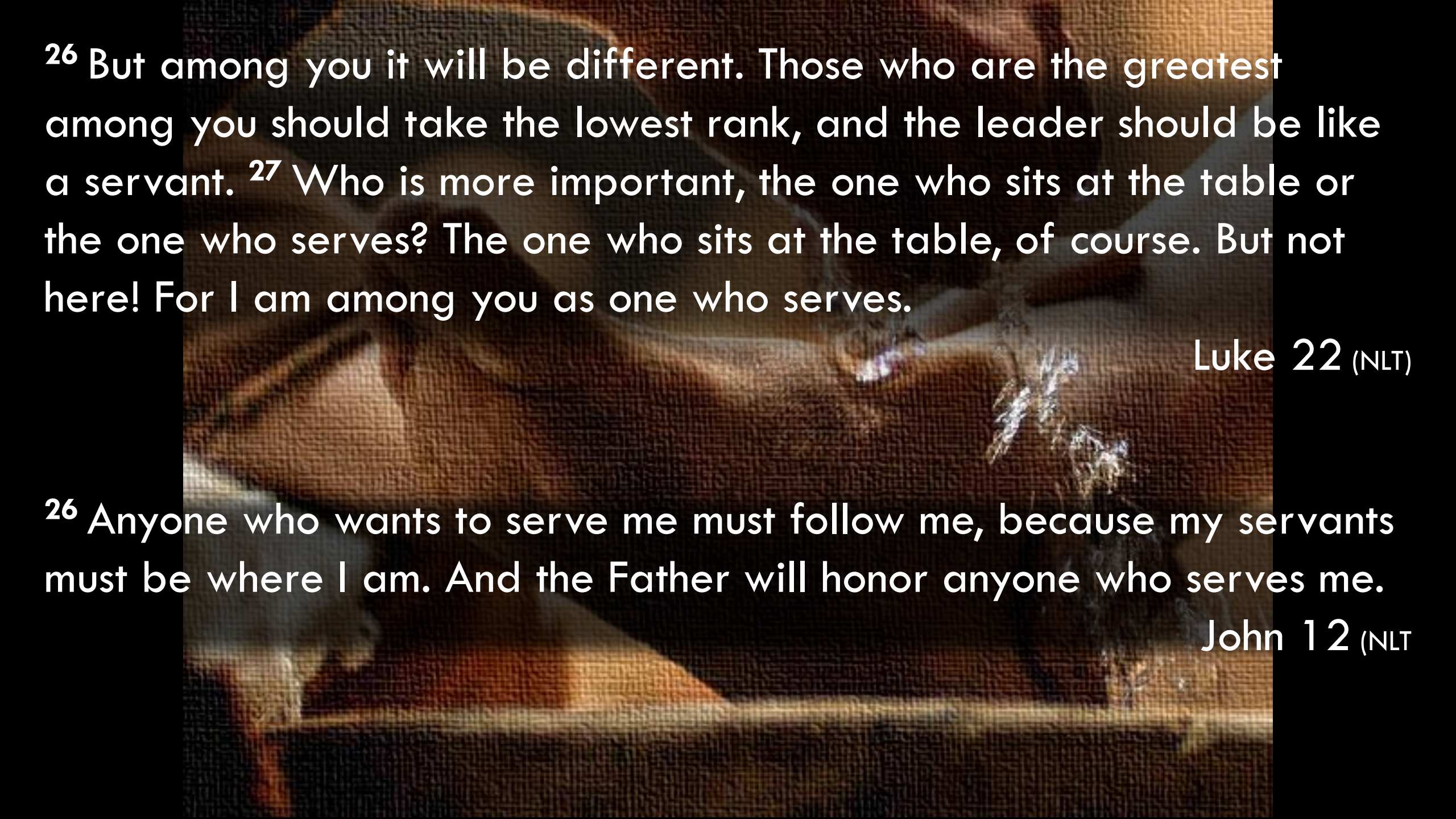






²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. ²⁷ Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22 (NLT)



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Luke 22 (NLT)

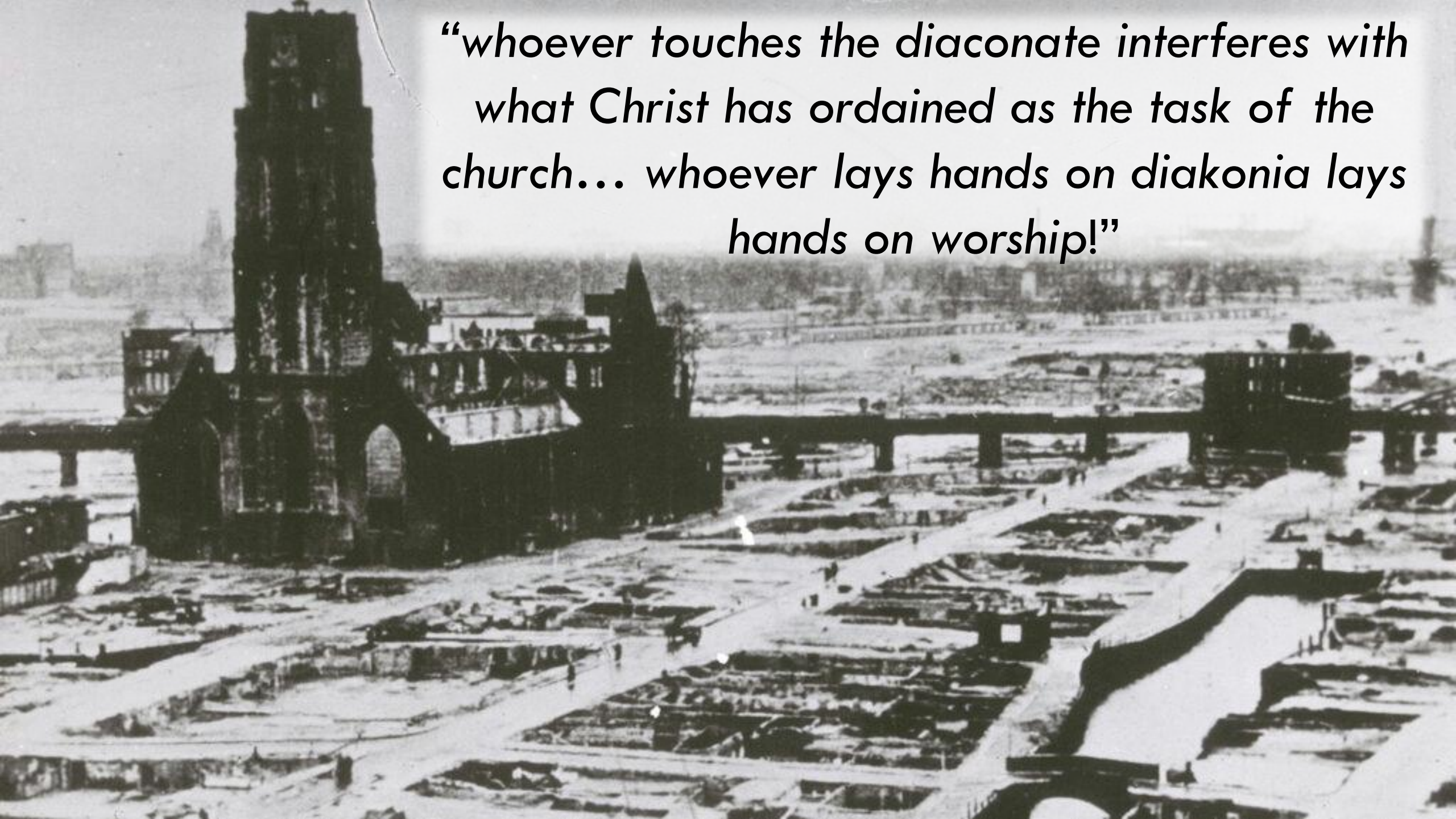
²⁶ Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

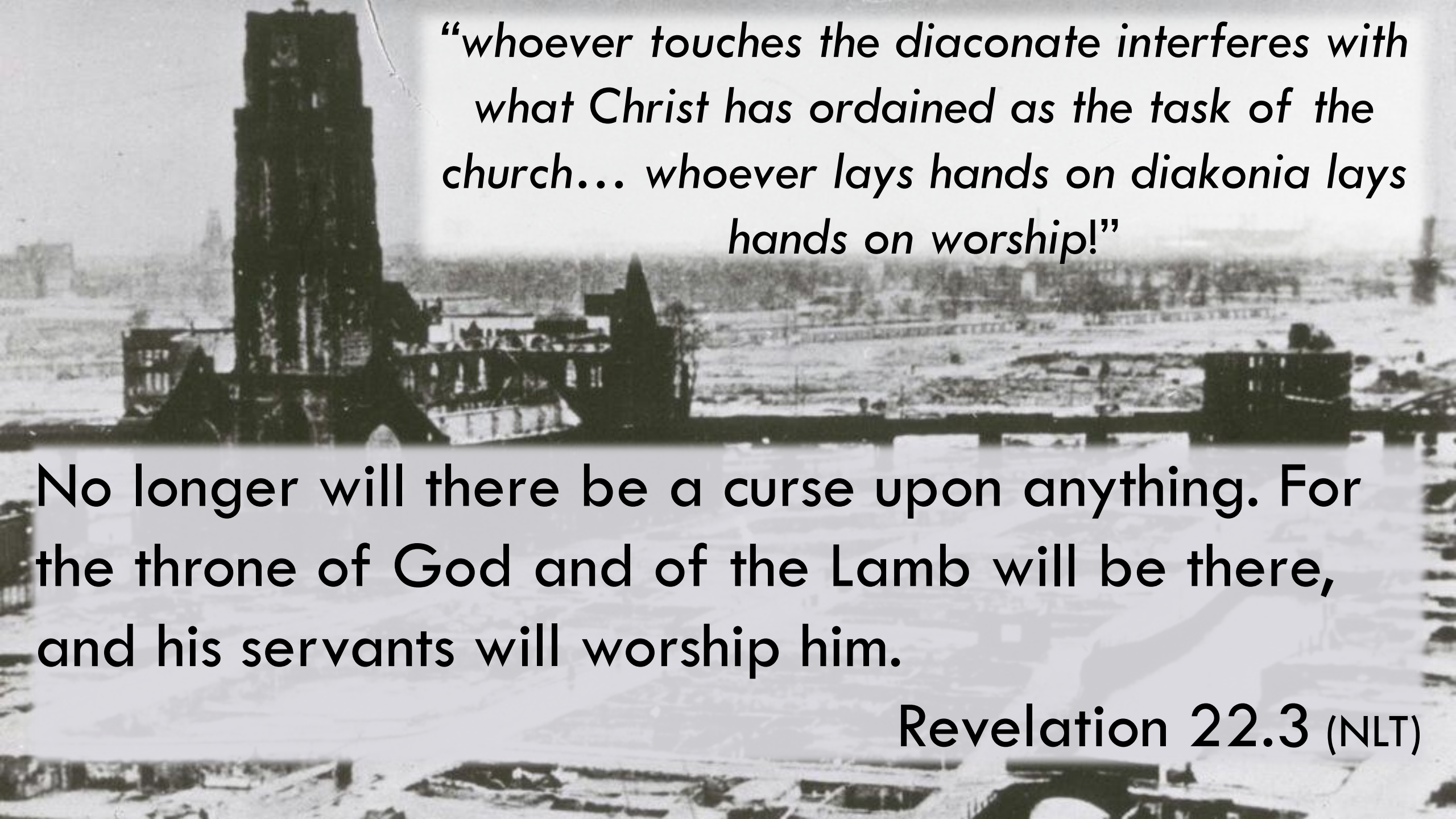
John 12 (NLT)

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Acts 20.24 (NLT)

*“whoever touches the diaconate interferes with
what Christ has ordained as the task of the
church... whoever lays hands on diakonia lays
hands on worship!”*



A black and white photograph of a city skyline. In the foreground, a tall, dark church steeple stands prominently. Behind it, various buildings and structures of the city are visible, including a bridge in the distance. The sky is light and hazy.

*“whoever touches the diaconate interferes with
what Christ has ordained as the task of the
church... whoever lays hands on diakonia lays
hands on worship!”*

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For
the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there,
and his servants will worship him.

Revelation 22.3 (NLT)