

Daily Hope for May 29, 2020
Resurrection Living – Serving the Church of God

We are now in the “season” of Easter that lasts for 7 weeks, until the day of Pentecost (May 31st this year). It only makes sense that we celebrate this Day of Days for several weeks! Each day we will explore a passage that talks about the impact of the Resurrection event on our day-to-day lives. Please pray as you consider the questions asked, praying that both mind and heart be engaged in what exactly the Scripture is challenging us to do.

Scripture: Acts 6:1-7

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. (ESV)

Reflection Questions

This is the last Daily Hope of this series, which has taken us from Easter to Pentecost (this Sunday, May 31st). At first glance it’s a somewhat ordinary passage, telling about the apostles needing to appoint leaders in the church to be deacons, who will focus on the physical needs of the church, allowing the apostles to focus on prayer and preaching the gospel. But it shows us that much of what caring for the needs of the church looks like is not very exciting or dramatic, but is absolutely *essential* for the church to BE Christ’s Body on earth. As it turns out, one of these ‘ordinary’ first deacons would end up being the first Christian killed for his faith (see chapter 7). So even while seeming “ordinary” in one sense, Stephen would be called to testify and then die, and his faith would be a spark that would help lead to a dramatic spread of the church throughout the region beyond Israel!

1. How did the apostles go about selecting and confirming the individuals that would serve as deacons? What does that process tell us about the importance of the serving roles they would play? Each of us has a powerful part to play!
2. Take some time to thank God for the ways you have been able to serve the church in the past, and then creatively consider if there may be some new way, in these days of COVID-19, that you might offer to God and to Hope, in terms of an offering of service.

3. It says in verse 7 that “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly...”. Pray that God will provide--through a sacrifice of your own service in one area or another—new, fresh ways for the word of God to increase in our area.

Robert Lackie

