

I. What A Kingdom Challenge Looks Like (1)

A. A beautiful harvest among them (1a) - "Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number..."

B. A disabling disturbance among them - (1b) "...a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution."

II. What Cooperation In Conflict Looks Like (2-4)

A. A conflict of priorities (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."

"The most urgent thing is not always the most important thing." - Larry Bouker

B. Decisiveness toward solution (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."

The leaders acted decisively, communicated clearly and established an executable process

C. Clarification of commitments (4) - "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

A church's primary leaders must be freed up to accomplish the things which only they can accomplish. Being capable at other duties does not mean that they should be made available for other duties.

III. What A Redemptive Resolution Looks Like (5-7)

A. Empowerment & release (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.

B. Trust and respect (6) - "These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them."

Both the leaders and the followers respected each other and displayed mutual trust in their particular roles #HONOR

C. A flowing Kingdom stream (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."