

ACTS 6

Main Point: CHOSEN, Church Leadership, and Church Membership.

*2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. 3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are **well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom**. We will give them this responsibility. 4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."*

Acts 6:2-4

Digging Deeper

Lesson one is that church conflict CAN BE a good thing if we seek the Lord's glory and direction through it. As the conflict arose and friction became tense in Acts 6 the apostles realized that they were overwhelmed and not called or gifted to the task of food distribution. They were called to prayerfully teach and equip the body. The friction that could have caused a church split was used by God to help the apostles see that God creates and gifts people to fit specifically into his body in a unique way, and the apostles here realized that they needed help from others with different giftings.

Lesson two: delegation. In the secular world of leadership, there is a concept called "talent management." Essentially, as a leader, my role was to take an inventory of the kinds of people that I was serving, their talents, strengths, and weaknesses, and position them in a way that they could absolutely thrive personally, as well as contribute the most value to the mission. This was a lesson Moses had to learn, as well as the apostles here in Acts 6 as they became overwhelmed. So what is the lesson for us individually?

First, God has chosen YOU for a purpose, a job if you will, within the body of Christ. Do you know how your God-given skills and talents affect your position in the kingdom? Second, God is equipping you for that purpose. Are you seeking his wisdom?

Discussion Questions

1. Previously, what was your understanding of a pastor's job, or qualifications? How does that line up (if so) with Ephesians 4:11-15?
2. Verse 3 outlines the criteria used to choose the 'deacons' that would help with the administrative tasks of the church: well respected, full of the Spirit, and full of wisdom. What does each of these mean to you? Is there a difference between spiritual and physical (human) wisdom?
3. What is the purpose of the Church Member, or individual Christian?
4. Stephen was chosen and people began to challenge him, yet he was unmatched in his wisdom and spirit. (Vs 8-10) What does that mean for us as we are chosen and equipped by God to stand for the truth?
5. Friction in a ministry can cause a church to split or grow stronger. Iron sharpens iron only with friction and heat. Explore what elements must be necessary for Church Members as well as leaders to overcome any conflict.