

Acts 6:1-7

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

I. Introduction: Increase of the Church

Acts 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

A. Increase comes with issues.

1. More things happen when more things happen.
2. Leaders must have a healthy sensitivity to the perspective of others.

B. Internal weakness is revealed in times of pressure.

1. People Issues — What?
2. Purpose Issues — Who?
3. Process Issues — How?

C. You can make excuses or you can make progress.

Acts 6:2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

1. Dilemmas create drama.
 - Drama causes a decision between defense or offense.
2. Leaders must see forward.
3. Spiritual growth begins with God's Word.

II. Three Qualifications For Leadership

Acts 6:3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them

1. Good reputation

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

2. Full of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

3. Wisdom

Ephesians 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Colossians 1:9-12 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

III. Leaders lead.

Luke 10:1-2 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

A. Busy schedules require enhanced times of prayer and scripture.

Acts 6:4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

B. God calls the servants of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Acts 6:5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

Acts 6:6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Proverbs 3:3-4 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

IV. When purpose, process and prayer align, increase happens.

Acts 6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

A. Predicament - What is it that needs to be addressed with people or a problem?

B. People - Who is a part of the solution to this predicament?

C. Purpose - What is my/their role in God's calling?

D. Process - What is the strategy to accomplish God's calling?

E. Prayer - The engine that drives purpose and process.