

Acts 6 - Becoming a powerful witness

- Verse 1: Conflict in the church: a dispute between the Hellenists and Hebrews
 - “In a congregation of that size, it was inevitable that someone’s needs would be overlooked.” (John MacArthur)
 - “Satan loves to use an unintentional wrong to begin a conflict. The Hebrews were right in their *hearts*, and the Hellenists were right in their *facts*. These were perfect conditions for a church-splitting conflict.” (David Guzik)
 - But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5 (NKJV)
- Verses 2-4: The Apostles seek a solution
 - “It was better to put ten men to work than to try to do the work of ten men.” (D.L. Moody)
 - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV)
- Verses 5-7: Seven were chosen and the gospel continued to spread
 - *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; Romans 12:10 (NKJV)
 - "Luke celebrates this solution. The widows were cared for, and the ministry of the Word of God was not forsaken. Both were utterly crucial. Either could have undermined the church and ended its amazing growth. The solution was the diversity of gifts and calling. The solution was a new kind of teamwork in the body of Christ." – (John Piper)
 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8 (NKJV)
- Verses 8-10: Stephen a powerful witness
 - “Those that are full of faith are full of power, because by faith the power of God is engaged for us.” (Matthew Henry)
 - “There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord; but few of us are willing to do little things.” (D.L. Moody)
 - Therefore settle *it* in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. Luke 21:14-15 (NKJV)
- Verses 11-14: Lies and false charges
 - “So you shall say to them, ‘This *is* a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth. Jeremiah 7:28 (NKJV)
- Verse 15 – the face of an angel
 - Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels. Hebrews 13:2
 - Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in Moses’ hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. Exodus 34:29 (NKJV)