

Become a Kingdom Grower!

Acts 6:1-7

Big idea: God uses servants to grow the church during difficulties; so, we find our place to serve to God.

This passage is about Deacons.

- i. The word *Deacon* means *servant*.
- ii. Why did they need deacons?
 - Because people were being neglected.
- iii. What was the purpose of serving?
 - To love people.
 - To maintain unity.
 - To allow Apostles time to pray/teach.
- iv. What's the ultimate result of the work servants do?
 - The church thrives.
 - The kingdom grows.

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 (Act 6:1-7 ESV).

Big idea: God uses servants to grow the church during difficulties; so, we find our place to serve to God.

Kingdom Growers:

1. Expect problems to arise (v. 1).
2. Find your part in solving problems (vv. 2-6).
3. Work together to strengthen the church (v. 7).

1. Expect problems to arise (v. 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.”

Six concerns addressed in Acts 6.

- i. Protecting unity in the church (v. 1).
- ii. Keeping up with legitimate needs (vv. 1, 7).
- iii. Avoiding and handling criticism (v. 3).
- iv. Maintaining ministerial priorities (v. 4).
- v. Sharing ministry duties (vv. 5-6).
- vi. Furthering the Kingdom of God (v. 7).

Kingdom Growers:

- i. Recognize legitimate issues (James 1:27).
- ii. Avoid sinful response (Phil 2:4; 1Co 10:10).

We have problems for the same reasons.

- i. Only God can satisfy, but we look other places.
- ii. Immature/lost people (1Co 3:2-3).
- iii. Clash of cultures (v. 1b).
- iv. Limited leaders.

2. Find your part in solving problems (vv. 2-6).

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Find your place in the Kingdom.

- i. Servants lead in serving (v. 3).
- ii. Elders focus on the Word and Prayer (v. 4).
- iii. It's the *church's* duty (vv. 2, 3, 5, 6).
- iv. Every member has a part (1Co 12:12f).

Become a Kingdom Grower.

- i. Build a good reputation (v. 3; Rom 14:19).
- ii. Increase your wisdom (v. 3).
- iii. Live a Spirit-filled life (v. 3; cf 1:8; 2:4, 11; 4:8, 12).
- iv. Work for unity (v. 5).

3. Work together to strengthen the church (v. 7).

“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” (Act 6:1-7).

Kingdom Growers:

- i. Sacrifice comfort for the Kingdom.
- ii. Make disciples together.
- iii. Share the gospel faithfully.

Today, ask God what changes you can make to serve his Kingdom better.