

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 __ Lesson 16

Serving Tables and Deacons

1. Acts 5 – Review

- a. Gamaliel prevents their death, but there is no neutrality with Christ – Mt 12:30
- b. The kingdom is taken from them and given to the little flock – Mt 21:43, Lk 12:32
- c. *“daily in the temple preaching Jesus Christ”* as John 17:3, 20:31 acc. to prophecy
- d. Paul says 3x *“my gospel”* which stands in contrast to what is preached here
- e. They are going to capture Stephen, full of faith and Spirit, and kill him.

2. Acts 6:1-6 – The First Deacons?

- a. *“disciples were multiplied”* – The rulers are failing, the believers are growing
- b. *“murmuring”* - This is not a breakdown in the kingdom group, but a sign of growth
- c. *“daily ministration”* – This is Acts 2:44-45, 4:32... not 1 Tim 5:4,8,16
- d. Tradition puts our pattern for deacons here b/c of similar Greek words not doctrine
- e. In the church there are elders (strong) and children (weaker) – 1Tim 5:17
- f. Bishops and deacons are the elders who do work to rule, care, minister – 1Ti 3:5
- g. They must be first proved, holding the mystery, in purity – 1Tim 3:8-13, Titus 1:9
- h. No one in Acts 6 knew the mystery, but they did do service to the little flock.

3. Acts 6:1-7 – Choosing Stephen

- a. *“leave the word of God”* – The distribution was taking time away from preaching
- b. How did they know they were full of the Holy Ghost? 1 John 3:10,17-18, 24; 4:1-2
- c. They were chosen by the multitude (one heart), appointed by the twelve
- d. Six men were Grecian, the seventh was a Gentile proselyte (converted to Judaism)
- e. *“word of God increased”* – The kingdom group was not failing, Israel was