



First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church

618 N. Hammonds Ferry Road, Linthicum, Maryland 21090-1311

Phone: 410-728-4383 Fax: 410-383-0676

Website: www.firstmtolive.com

Bishop Oscar E. Brown, M.Div., D.D., Senior Pastor

April 19-20, 2022

Mid-Week Worship and Study

Theme: Faith Under Fire

Topic: Acts 6

3. The First Racial Tension in the Church (Acts 6:1-7)

A. Problem (Acts 6:1)

And in those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

The problem primarily arose because of a blessing:

- The number of disciples _____
_____ grew.

- The new disciples were non-Jews _____.

It is often referred to as a _____.

Good Problem vs. Bad Problem

- **Good Problem**

Positively Generated, i.e.

- A growing plant will outgrow its pot.
- A small child will outgrow their clothes

- **Bad Problem**

Negatively Generated, i.e.

- A plant not growing
- A small child who does not outgrow their clothes

The blending of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds will also create some type of _____.

The Grecian widows were being neglected in the daily ministrations.

_____ - attendance, to run errands, a waiter or to perform menial duties

The root of the issue could have been:

- a _____

- fear of being _____

B. Solution

A meeting was called by the twelve Apostles with them _____ to resolve the issues.

(Acts 6:2-6)

²Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

³Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

⁴But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

⁵And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

⁶Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

The Purpose of the Meeting

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Apostles' Assignment:

- _____
- _____

The Apostles made it clear that the serving of tables _____ was a valet ministry.

Diaconate Ministry (Acts 6:3)

³Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Deacon – servant, worker or minister

Qualifications:

- _____ report

- Full of the _____

- Full of _____

- _____ of business

The solution pleased the people, and seven men were selected.

The Ordination of the Deacons

Verse 6

Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

C. Results:

(Acts 6:7)

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The Ministry of Deacon Stephen (Acts 6:8-15)

⁸And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

⁹Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

¹⁰And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

¹¹Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

¹²And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

¹³And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

¹⁴For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Stephen was one of the men selected to serve as a Deacon.

Stephen was:

- _____
- _____
- _____
among the people
- _____
Five (5) synagogues fought against him.
- _____;
wisdom and the Spirit

Stephen's ministry was so powerful that he was arrested on false charges.

Verse 11-15

True ministry never fits into the status quo of the day.

Verse 14

For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

What is the proper positioning in God?

- _____
- good reputation
- _____
- more of His Spirit and less of yours
- _____
- good manager
- _____
- pistis – persuasion of truth
- _____
- dynamis – forcible strength not passive
- _____
- signs and wonders
- _____
in the time of opposition.