

Called to Service

Acts 6:1-7

Icebreaker: *Have you ever been expected to do something that you could never accomplish on your own?*

During the first five chapters of Acts the church has grown by leaps and bounds. There finally comes a point in time when the 12 apostles can no longer meet all the needs of the church on their own.

Acts 6:1-4

Some people have a really hard time saying “No” to opportunities to help others. *How did the apostles use this as an opportunity to equip others for ministry?*

- By delegating this responsibility to others, they helped those men mature in their faith.

What was the criteria for those who were chosen?

- They were men
- They were full of the Spirit
- They were wise.

Of course, you don't have to be a man to serve in the kingdom of God. There are many responsibilities available to both men and women. *How can responsibility in serving others lead to spiritual maturity?*

- Serving others stretches us and helps us grow in our faith.
- Serving others teaches us to be leaders and how to handle responsibility in spiritual matters.

The apostles did not take sides or blame anyone for the problem. They did not even appoint the people themselves but let the Christians exercise some judgment in the matter.

Why is it easy to rely on the elders and ministers to take care of everything?

- We may have learned by example that they take care of everything.
- We may feel like they know the Bible better than we do.
- They may have been a Christian longer

Why is it important for all Christians to be involved in some kind of ministry or service?

- It shows that we are growing.
- It increases our faith.
- It makes use of our talents.

Acts 6:5-7

What two things did the apostles do to commission these men for their task?

- Laid their hands on them
- Prayed for them

These things were primarily associated with three things:

- Commissioning someone for a duty
- Presenting a sacrifice before God (notice the rest of chapter 6-7 is about Stephen, one of these seven men, and his death)
- Saying a blessing over someone

How well do these three things fit what is happening in Acts 6?

The call is not just for these seven or for the twelve apostles. The call is for all of God's people to be involved in service. We are called to be invested in His church. That takes time and energy. It takes putting others ahead of ourselves and notice that even though these men did not teach or preach, their ministry still resulted in the spreading of the word of God and a large number of people being saved (**Acts 6:7**). Even though you might not preach or teach, you still have a purpose in the kingdom of God that results in saving the lost.

Application:

What do you feel like your purpose or ministry is within the church?

How has God used you in the past to serve and minister to others?

The Christian life is a life of service. When only a few choose to be serious about that it puts a strain on the church. But when each one is willing to do their part the church thrives and grows as God intended.

What can you do to be more active in service to others?

Our LIFE groups are coming to a close for the summer. It is important that we be reminded that our participation in the church does lead to people being reached and lives being saved.

Do not read this to the group:

Life leaders encourage your group members to be a part of Sunday worship both AM and PM. Encourage them to serve others. Encourage them to be a part of something bigger than themselves and invest themselves in things that will last forever. You may even want to give an example of a way that you are going to be of more service to God this summer to spur them on to love and good works. God bless you for all you have done this year!