

## The Agreement (vv. 5-6)

“And what they said pleased (*aresko*) the whole gathering (*plethos*)...”

“...and they chose...”

Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit (see 6:8-8:3) and  
Philip (see 8:4-40) and  
Prochorus and  
Nicanor and  
Timon and  
Parmentas and  
Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch

“These they set before the apostles...”

“...and laid their hands on them.”

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 6:7** 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.

## The Result (v. 7)

“And the word of God continued to increase (*auxano*)...”

“...and the number of the disciples multiplied (*plethuno*) greatly in Jerusalem...”

“...and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”

They addressed internal complaints with wisdom, emphasizing and maintaining the unity and diversity of the church. As a result, the word of God continued to spread, and more disciples were made.

They demonstrated a determined confidence in the Spirit within the church, and led accordingly. As long as they are truly disciples—and aren't motivated by self-interest (e.g. Ananias and Sapphira)—then what internal challenges can they not work through?

Sunday, September 6, 2026  
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

**ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ**  
No. 15 | Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 7

**Acts 6:1-7**

## Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

(1:1-26) Waiting for the Spirit—Confirming the Twelve Apostles

(2:1-47) Receiving of the Spirit—Birthing the Church

What then do we see in Acts 3 and following?

The witness of Jesus Christ goes from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth

How does the witness of Jesus Christ *go*?

What did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ encounter?

How did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ prevail?

## Witnessing in Jerusalem, pt. 7

**6:1-7**

### Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(3:1-4:31) Boldness in Opposition

(4:32-5:16) Esteem in Community

(5:17-42) Obedience in Suffering – What will you do when your resolve for speaking the word of God with boldness is tested? See 3:1-4:31

**(6:1-7) Wisdom in Decision-making** – What will you do when your resolve for being together as a local church in unity is tested? See 4:32-5:16

## The apostles model wisdom in addressing a problem in order to preserve the unity of the local church.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 6:1** 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.

### The Problem (v. 1)

“Now in these days...”

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 5:41** Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. <sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

What did the apostles face when they spoke the truth about Jesus?

What did the apostles do when they were told not to speak about Jesus?

See also 3:1-5:42 and 2:42-47

“...when the disciples were increasing (*plethuno*) in number...”

**the disciples** (*mathetes*, first use in Acts)

“the brothers” (1:15)

“all who believed were together” (2:44)

“they went to their friends” (lit. *their own*, 4:23)

“the full number of those who believed” (4:32)

“the whole church” (5:11)

**increasing in number**

“the company of persons was in all about 120” (1:15)

“there were added that day about three thousand souls” (2:41)

“the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved” (2:47)

“many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand” (4:4)

“more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women” (5:14)

“...a complaint...arose...”

a complaint **by the Hellenists** arose **against the Hebrews**

Who?

**because their widows were being neglected** in the daily distribution

What?

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 4:34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

What then was the problem?

the nature of the church

the challenge of growth

the importance of unity

the necessity of wisdom

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 6:2** 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.” <sup>3</sup>

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. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

**The Solution** (vv. 2-4)

“And the twelve summoned the full number (*plethos*) of the disciples and said...”

**the twelve**

**the full number of the disciples**

““It is not right (*arestos*) that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve (*diakoneo*) tables.”

What are they saying?

““Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men...””

...of good repute

...full of the Spirit and of wisdom

What are they doing?

“...whom we will appoint to this duty.””

How are they functioning?

““But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.””

How did they handle this in wisdom?

- They addressed the matter, a matter that threatened the unity of the church.
- They appropriately got the church involved, while leading them through the process.
- They insisted that not everything is everyone's responsibility, while two different things still need to be handled.
- They encouraged selecting assistants carefully, intentionally thinking about their character and involvement in the matter.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 6:5** 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. <sup>6</sup> These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.