

Hope of the World

Part 3, Acts 6:1-7

The Choosing of the Seven

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

1. What was the main point Steve was trying to make in his message on Sunday? What do you think?
2. Read the passage. What problem arose as the church grew? (6:1)
3. How could you imagine such a thing happening?
4. What did the Apostles consider to be their highest priority?
5. What did this priority mean in practice? Was it the right priority? Explain.
6. Why did the apostles decide that they couldn't sort out the problem personally? Is this an example of healthy boundaries? What are healthy boundaries?
7. What was the solution the Apostles came up with?
8. All the names of the people appointed to serve had Greek names. What do you think might lie behind this choice?
9. What might have happened to the church if they had of ignored the conflict?
10. Can all conflicts in the church be solved by appointing people to fix the problem? If not, can you think of any examples?
11. What spiritual resources do we need to solve these kind of conflicts?
12. What do we need to pray about in the context of this study? Let's pray.