

Discussion Questions

June 16, 2024

Acts 6:1-7 : Power & Prejudice in the Early Church

1. If you feel comfortable, share if there been any times where you recognized there was latent prejudice in your own heart towards another group of people.

2. Read Acts 6:1-7

Verse 1 indicates that this is the first time the followers of Jesus are called "Disciples." What is the significance of that word being used to describe them?

Summarize what is happening with the Jewish widows.

How do they end up addressing this conflict?

3. Discuss how these early disciples, while filled with the Holy Spirit and amazingly generous and "otherly," could at the same time be overlooking the most vulnerable people in their midst.

4. In what ways are we prone to do the same thing (as question 3) today? What are some examples of where we can be trying to pursue Jesus with our whole heart, yet radically miss something so close to His heart?

5. Read Matthew 25:31-46

Summarize Jesus' teaching in your own words.

How can we practically apply this message today?

6. Is there anything you as a home group could do together to help care for the vulnerable among or around us?



Acts 6:1–7 (NIV)

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. 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. 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

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. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

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.

Dr. Kent Hughes - Acts: the Church Afire

Resentful, the native Aramaic-speaking Jews discriminated against the Hellenistic Jews, whom the Pharisees held in utter contempt, considering them second-class Israelites. Then came Pentecost, and thousands of Aramaic-speaking Jews plus hundreds of Hellenistic Jews became one in Christ. However, conversion (wonderful as it was) did not erase all their prejudices.

Dr. Scot Mcknight - Acts: Participating Together in God's Mission

The term "overlooked" suggests the Greek widows were unnoticed and invisible to those distributing the food. The Hebrew speakers didn't notice, but the (minority culture) Greek speakers did. Prejudice was running the system invisible to one group and doubly visible to another. Widows were especially vulnerable, and to neglect them counters the Torah's common instructions to care for widows and orphans.

Acts 2:44–45 (NLT)

And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

Acts 4:32–35 (NLT)

All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

Luke 4:18 (NLT)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.