

Tonight we are going to be in Acts 6

So a little back ground

I went through Acts with the high schoolers for the last 2 and half years.

Acts is the book where the church was birthed from. This takes place after the death and resurrection of Jesus, after Pentecost when they were filled with the holy spirit.

Finally, Peter is not putting his foot in his mouth every time he talks.

Peter actually leads 3000 people to the Lord in Chapter 2

Peter and John heel a guy that has been lame from birth at the beautiful gate with he was a beggar this guy was so excited that he was jumping up and down running through Solomon's porch then he grabs John and Peter and begins to run with them.

Chapter 9 is where Saul sees the light on the road to Damascus receives the Lord and his ministry takes off as well.

This book is written by Luke And towards the end of Acts Luke is with Paul a lot I believe it is partially due to his health. We have to remember Paul was shipped wrecked a couple time as we'll as stone once so he needed a doctor

I don't ever title my messages but if I were to title this one it would be

Why do we need servants.

So again we are in acts 6

And we are going to see why it is so important to have servants in the Lord.

A little back ground on me I moved out here from California when I graduated high school. unlike John always says I did graduate.

So I move out to Colorado as a crazy kid I ended up getting saved at a retreat I went to a couple months after being here.

my aunt and uncle were the children's ministry directors at the time and you guys know where I am going with this.

I was asked the question can you teach? NO I can't teach.

So I did and that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have served the Lord ever since.

It's funny when we moved from Gino's church to here I told Coreena my lovely wife that we are not serving at all we will be a pew potato. That worked for about 2 weeks and my lovely wife told Kashia which was leading the children's ministry here at Calvary that I taught.

SO here I am.

I have been serving the Lord for 24 years.....

So to let you know I love to serve the Lord. There is nothing better then to waking up Sunday mornings knowing I get to see people and I get to serve the youth, to teach and encourage. I absolutely love to serve the Lord .

So enough about me let's get into chapter 6

I will read 1-7 and then we will go back and talk about each one of them. And we will see how long this is going to be.

1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

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

6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Lets look at Vs 1

1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

If we go back to 5:41-42 we see what was going on in those days they were beaten and asked not to teach about Jesus anymore. Can you believe that? Hopefully our response would be the same, they rejoiced because they were persecuted.

But these guys were not just believers they were disciples. All believers are Christians but not all believer are disciples

Jesus saves but the church disciples,

Our vision right Win Disciple Send.

But then

I believe with this need not being met, the church could have been stagnated (see v. 7 and the word 'then')

There would have been no new growth.

All these people were getting saved the church was growing and as it is growing of course it's going to have problems but these are great problems to have. People were coming to know the Lord and Multiplying. Which again is a great problem to have

And of course when there is growth and not enough people to help there is going to be problems so the Hellenists were complaining

It's important to remember that though the titles Hebrews and Hellenists are used, these were Christians, followers of Jesus. They were all from a Jewish background, but they had all embraced Jesus as their Messiah.

But of course the Hellenist were looked down upon due to the fact they were Greek cultured

The early church took responsibility to help support the Widows because they often had no other support.

Which we do as a church as well.

In ancient times, the primary purpose of women in marriage was to produce children and heirs to carry on the family line. A childless widow endured double adversity, with no husband to provide for and protect her, and no son to carry on the family

name and care for her in her old age. She might have been considered a disgrace to her family and left in a precarious position.

So

2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

The twelve were Peter, Andrew, James son of Zebedee , his brother John, Philip Bartholomew, Thomas , Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus ,Simon the Zealot the new one Matthias.

Acts 1:18 tells us what happened to Judas. **Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.**

This is a bible story guys

So going on

As Dave says: stay in your lane that God's called you to serve in.

There is a higher purpose for your ministry, that if abandoned will hinder growth?

Which is more important? Ministering to the software or the hardware.

Our software is eternal our bodies are hardware, but they need care to!

The Apostle were software feeders!

This disk is worth maybe 50 cents but if it had the whole bible on it how much would it be worth? Much more.

The Apostles could serve and meet the needs of the people hardware but that's not going to allow them to pray or teach.

This is not saying at all that the apostles didn't want to serve the people. But it is saying that we need help we can't do it on our own. We can't neglect our confirmed calling in order to meet another or different need.

I look at it like this, Pastor Dave can't teach the adults Sunday's and Wednesday's also the youth ministry, young adults, Tuesday morning men's study. And all the other events that go on. He has to have people around him that can do these other things so we make sure he has time for prayer and the word. That he has time for his wife, kids, grandkids, as well as other things God has called him to.

I have people around me to help me out with the building stuff, the clean team stuff, open door, as well as church in the park also the youth ministry. These are all the ministries that I am head over. But I can't do them all on my own.

I believe what will happen is

In Matthew 6:24 it says this

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Some things are going to fall by the waste side because other things are more important to get done.

And to be honest, with me it is the youth that fall by the waist side because I am often doing building stuff for most of the week.

I know that my main calling is youth ministry because look at them they are crazy. But really making sure that our youth are taken care of here at Calvary but also the youth in our city. Do you guys realize that 70-80% of our youth walk away from the Lord when they leave high school?

But so many times I get in this place where other things need to get done and I neglect it.

I am really trying to get better at this.

SO Luke 3 says

3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

This seven **The number is proportionate** to make sure all the needs are being met.

Some believe that this is evidence of a superior attitude among the twelve; that they considered themselves above such work. This was probably not so, and they were wise in delegating these responsibilities. God did not call these apostles to be everything for the church. God has and will raise up others to serve in other ways.

But He did tell these 12 that He had many other things to teach them and so they were putting themselves in a position to be faithful to that command, so they can teach others

Notice what this does not say. Just pick some men out and hope they work out for you.

But Men with a good Reputation: a verbal living witness

Full of the Holy spirit: there is nothing in the person that would hinder the out pouring and flowing of the Holy Spirit in their life, in John 7:38

and wisdom: To make sure that the decision they are making good. Practical wisdom in meeting the need.

So we have 4 things right?

1 Men I can hear my daughters now women don't need no man we are stong independent women. Well you need a man here.

2 good reputation

3 full of the holy spirit

4 Wisdom

One who is trust worthy to make sure that the church is taken care of. That nothing is going to interfere with serving the people. To keep moving forward with the work that God has started long ago.

Pastor Dave is on his sabbatical now. What if he just grab some people off the streets and said ok take care of the people and teach.

Ok So maybe he does have motley crew for a staff but thankfully I am here to calm them all down.

But why? So that the Pastors could give themselves to prayer, teaching the word, counseling.

It's funny I used to hear when I was first saved how Gino and the other pastor at my first church said they were always tired, or had a lot on his plate and needed help.

I thought are you kidding you teach on Wednesday and Sundays how hard can it be.....

Yeah then God gave me the desires of my heart and allowed me to do full time ministry. And now I know it's not only Wednesdays and Sundays its every other day of the week as well. And nights at Village Inn for free pie,

I am super glad that he is taking time off to reflect on the Lord and to get refreshed.

A pastor should not have his time consumed in tasks that are essentially serving tables. Yet there is something wrong with a pastor who considers such work beneath him.

The ministry is a lot of work, even apart from administrative headaches. A young man said to Donald Grey Barnhouse, "I'd give the world to be able to teach the Bible like

you.” Looking him straight in the eye, Dr. Barnhouse replied: “Good, because that’s exactly what it will cost you.”

Romain Chuck Smiths right hand man would tell people who came up to him and said he wanted to be a part of the ministry he would give him a mop.

I don’t care how far up the chain in the church you are we are called to serve the Lord and not just talk about how you do but really serve the Lord.

Matthew 20:28 says

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Ok back to acts.

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

And it pleased the whole multitude this is what peace and unity looks like.

An interesting thing appears here, and that is when they chose these seven men, look at their names: Nicolas, Parmenas, Nicanor--these are Greek names. Maybe to make sure that there widows aren’t getting the short end of things.

But notice these two, Phillip and Stephen. Both ended up doing great ministry software for the Lord.

But where did they start out? Waiting on tables doing the work that no body wants to do.

We get new people here at the church and they say I would love to serve Great where? I would like to teach or do worship?

We say how about Children’s ministry where there is a need, or how about the clean team.

Which I have to say the Clean team is by far the best team we have here at the church.

But these 7 were chosen because they were of good reputation, and filled with the holy spirit.

But I would like us to look at couple verse here

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them

In this case they had a need they asked for help and laid hands on 7 people in the good way not the way they usually laid hands on Paul.

But why did they have to lay hands on them?

The Israelites laid hands on the Levites (Num. 8:10); Moses laid hands on Joshua (Num. 27:18; Num. 27:23); the apostles prayed and laid hands on the seven (Acts 6:6); a gift given to Timothy through the laying on of hands (1 Tim. 4:14); a gift given to Timothy through the laying on of Paul’s hands (2 Tim. 1:6); do not lay hands on anyone hastily (1 Tim. 5:22); when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them (Acts 13:

It is to give approval of. To confirm that the Lord has raised them up. They all agreed that they were called to this.,

1 Tim 5:22 says

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.

But now the guy who was waiting tables

Look what happened when this internal hardware need was met....

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

But Look at what happens when everything starts working together. When you have people serve. The Word of God spread. people were coming to the Lord.

Considering all that could have gone wrong when Satan tried to attack through division, everyone involved deserves much credit.

luke 10:2 it says

The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

There are plenty of people that are lost but we don't have enough to show people the Hope of Jesus.

What Satan intended for bad came out good. No fighting among the people, everything worked out great because they were obedient to the Lord.

There is not a gift of gossip, a gift in back stabbing. Men and women God has called us to serve Him for he is worthy to be served. And this is

But rather than maybe like 1 Tim.1:12

Paul says

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Or Paul's says this in Romans 12:9-13

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

1 Cor.15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

So why do we need to serve?

Because the more people we have serving the more people that we reach, Which leads to more people to disciple and the more people we get to send out in Jesus name.

And again if Jesus the Lord says I came to serve not to be served Jesus is a great leader that we should all follow.

Plus we want what Luke said in verse 7

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

When I serve the Lord is it never I have to do this it is always I get to Serve the Lord today.

And to be honest that is always my prayer is that I never get to a place where I have to serve. I get to, We get to serve the Lord