

## Lesson 8 (Acts 6:1-7)

### "Pick Out From Among You Seven Men"

1. The "disciples" were continuing to increase in number, according to Acts 6:1. This is Luke's first use of that word in Acts. What is a disciple and what are we implying as we describe ourselves as "disciples of Christ"?
2. Even though sinners are added as sons and daughters to the one family of God upon obedience to the gospel (Rom 6:1-4; 8:11-17; 2 Cor 6:14-18; Gal 3:23-29), physical differences, diverse cultural backgrounds, varying preferences and opinions remain as a fact of everyday life. How do these things sometimes lead to tension, disagreements, oversights, and the showing of partiality among brethren, even in the twenty-first century?
3. Considering typical human nature, what might you have been tempted to do if you were one of the Hellenists whose widows were being neglected?
4. And what if you were one of the Hebrews? With so many to care for, it would have been very easy to unintentionally overlook someone, especially if they were different from you. What if you were working as hard and sincerely as you could, yet still there were those who were complaining? What might you have been tempted to do?
5. Interestingly, the apostles did not undertake a blame-finding investigation, nor did they propose that Hellenist believers and Hebrew believers go their separate ways. Instead, they "summoned the full number of the disciples" (6:2) and immediately sought a solution to the problem. Is there anything we can learn from that?
6. Why does it seem so very easy to allow our devotion to prayer and the word of God to slip in times of great busyness?
7. Why were the apostles determined to avoid that pitfall?
8. With busy schedules and wide-ranging responsibilities of our own, what do we need to learn from the apostles?
9. The apostles instructed the disciples to pick out from among themselves seven men with specific qualities. What do these qualities mean and why do they matter?
  - A. + Men of good repute -
  - B. + Full of the Spirit -
  - C. + Full of wisdom -
10. THOUGHT QUESTION: "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" (Acts 6:7). What is the significance of that last phrase?