

## “Jesus People Meet Needs” Acts 6:1-7

*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. <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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 6:1-7 (English Standard Version)

- **GOD’S CHURCH FACES A CHALLENGE WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE ARE NOT INVOLVED IN MINISTRY.**

### Three Principles of Service

- Every believer is called to serve in some area of ministry.

*When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.* John 13:12-15 (ESV)

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. <sup>5</sup>There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. <sup>6</sup>There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. <sup>7</sup>The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.* 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (Good News Translation)

- Every area of ministry is important.

Greek = *diakonia* = ministry or service (See Acts 6:2, 4)

*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, <sup>8</sup>because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, . . .*  
Ephesians 6:7-8 (New International Version)

- All believers are a potential “10” in at least one area of service.

*For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.* 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 (ESV)

- **WISE CHURCH LEADERS MULTIPLY SERVANT-LEADERS.**

### Two Important Steps in Multiplying Servant Leaders

- Keep ministry priorities front and center.
- Multiply ministry by empowering others to serve.

### Two Keys in Releasing People to Serve

- Delegate the ministry. (See Exodus 18)
- Delegate the authority.

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples . . .* Matthew 28:18-19a (ESV)

- **THE CHURCH GROWS WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER.**

*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 (ESV)