

LESSON 6

THE GOSPEL JUMPS SHIP

The Multicultural Church | [Acts 6:1-7](#)

OPENING QUESTIONS: OUR TEXT IN CONTEXT

1. The phrase, "Now in these days," in Acts 6:1 invites us to link what Luke about to write with what has gone before? How would you summarize "these days" and what is the connection with the story in Acts 6:1-7?
2. How does this story function in the Big Story of Acts? Hints:
 - 1) Luke's emphasis on the numerical growth of the Church.
 - 2) Luke's interest in how the Gospel spreads from one people group to another, to another, and to another, until

THINKING QUESTIONS: INTERPRETING THE TEXT

3. Observe and explain the social and institutional dynamics of church growth in Acts 6:1-7 which features three distinct sociological groups: Hebrews, Hellenists, and Hebrew priests.

What are some practical implications of what you observe?

4. The Church in heaven is perfect and needs no institutions. But from Acts 2 until this day, the Church on earth has created institutions. Why?

Observe and share as much as you can about the institutional life of the Church in Acts 6:1-7.

What happens when institutional dynamics quench the Spirit and the spiritual life of a church?

Conversely, what happens when a church is all 'spirit' and no structure?

**ACTS:
EMPOWERED TO LOVE,
SERVE, AND PROCLAIM**

—
Sermon Series
Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

—
The emergence of indigenous leaders in a multicultural setting is a critical process. Luke gives us the first example of this in Church History (Acts 6:1-7). It's a lesson in leadership, ecclesiology, and missions. The problem Luke highlights is an institutional one. The solution, therefore, must be institutional; But it must rest on spiritual insight and values, not worldly wisdom.

STUDY GUIDE

— LISTEN

Listen to this passage's sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: OBEYING THE WORD

5. Nowadays many church leaders find that they don't have enough time to pray and prepare sermons. Why is that so?

How does Acts 6:1-6 offer at least one solution to this problem?

What other solutions can you think of and share?

How can church members help 'protect' their spiritual leaders from becoming swamped by administrative duties?

6. Reflect on the criteria for selecting and appointing new spiritual leaders in Acts 6:3. What does Paul add to this (1 Timothy 3:8-14; Titus 1:5-9)?

Why are these criteria so important? What have we added to them? What have we (i.e. churches in general) taken away? And with what consequences?

7. From Acts 1 through 9, we see how the Gospel 'jumps ship' from Hebrews to Hellenists and then to Samaritans.

Which people groups in your city or region have mature churches and leaders?

What are some communities in your context that the Gospel still needs to penetrate?

What can churches do to reach such unreached groups in your nation and beyond?

Please read and reflect on [Acts 7](#) in preparation for next week's sermon and small group Bible study and discussion.