

The Church
Leadership
Acts 6:1-7

- Read Acts 6:1-7
 - What were the underlying issues with the problem of certain widows being cared for and others not?
 - Jerusalem Church was a large church. Are 12 elders and seven deacons a good model for any size church?
 - Why was the apostles' response to a request for material help not an arrogant reply?
 - Why do you suppose that in the 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension, he did not tell the disciples how to organize the church?

- Speaking of disciples, members of the congregation at Jerusalem were called disciples (verse 1). All Jesus' followers are identified as disciples. What characteristics should be evident in the life of a disciple?

- Do you know all our elders by name and sight? How should you pray for them?

- Same question about our deacons.

- Not long after being appointed deacons, the Jerusalem Church came under heavy persecution and the apostles (and apparently some of the deacons) were scattered. At least two of the deacons (Stephen in Acts 7 and Philip in Acts 8) had powerful preaching ministries. What does this say about the importance of deacons giving priority to the Word?

- Pray:
 - For our elders to be disciplined to take time to study the Word together and to pray – maybe read the text again before praying this point
 - Pray for strength for elders and deacons as they are prime targets for Satan's attacks
 - As our church grows, we will need more elders and deacons – pray for leadership and congregational wisdom

Study Notes

Thoughts and Quotes from the Sermon

Synagogue practices that were adopted by the church:

1. A council of male elders led the synagogue
2. The reading of Scripture was an important element of the service, as was the explanation of the Scripture
3. Prayer was an important element of the services
4. Community life outside of services was extremely important

Our Elders

Lee Williford – chairman
Ben Grumbach
Jim McLaughlin
Neal Manning
Jeremy Pittman
Brad Talley – teaching elder
Bert Wallace

Our Deacons

Jay Millard – co-chairman
Jason Painter – co-chairman
Bryan Ardner
Jon Bart
Adam Bryant
Steven Eisenberg
Drew Hanson
Paul Jicinsky
Chris Kerns
Aaron Marino
Ken Morgan
Ralph Nichols
Scott Shamblee
Josh Tate
Charlie Williams
Jason Woodall

From the sermon: In his book, *The Contemplative Pastor*, Eugene Peterson likens the role of the pastor to the role of the harpoonist in *Moby Dick*. As the sailors are closing in on the great whale, Melville describes the chaos on the boat. There is the crashing of the waves, the cursing of the sailors, the frenzy of the moment, but there is one person on the boat who is calm. The harpoonist must rise from rest when he strikes his blow. May it always be true in this pulpit.

Quote from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*: "To insure the greatest efficiency in the dart, the harpooners of this world must start to their feet out of idleness, and not out of toil."

Questions to be answered during our series on The Church:

1. What is the biblical foundation for the church?
2. What is the difference between the universal church and the local church? If I am a member of the universal church, why do I need to be a member of a local church?
3. Speaking of membership, is church membership biblical? Why is membership encouraged at Grace?
4. What is the biblical structure for church leadership? How do our elders and deacons function?
5. Why do we require members to attend for at least a year before:
 - being considered as a deacon?
 - leading a ministry?
 - serving on a leadership team?
 - leading a home group?
6. Why do we require membership for two years before being considered as an elder?
7. If one of our core values is "every member a minister," what can I do at Grace during my first year? What if the Holy Spirit has given me leadership giftings?
8. Why is home group attendance expected before being considered for leadership on any ministry team?
9. Why do we observe the Lord's Supper twice a month? Do we consider the Table and baptism to be sacraments or ordinances?
10. Why the increased emphasis on giving this year?
11. Why do we recite creeds on occasion? Isn't that somewhat Catholic?
12. Why do we not have an invitation at the end of the sermon?
13. Should I ask the elders to pray for me if I have a chronic illness or a major need in my life?

14. Why are only men allowed to serve as elders and deacons at Grace?
15. If we offer services online, is it okay for me to watch at home rather than attend?
16. What about missions? How many missionaries do we support? How does a missionary receive support from Grace? What about short-term trips? Does membership play a role?

Scripture Associated with the Message

Memory verse(s) for November:

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, **with the overseers (elders) and deacons:**

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.