



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of February 2, 2025

Acts 6:1-7

6 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. 2 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. 3 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. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 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. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 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.

1. In verse 1, the Greek word used for "complaint" refers to a murmuring, and conveys a sense of secretive subversive discontent expressed in a communal setting. Why do people do this and what might cause this kind of complaining within the church? Why does this kind of complaining have such power to destroy? More constructively, what can Christians do when they believe something is wrong within the church? Describe how this would play out.
2. Why did the Apostles place such a high priority on preaching the Word of God and why must the church always keep the ministry (service) of the Word as its highest priority? What are some subtle ways a church may de-prioritize the preaching of the Word and how would this impact the church?
3. Why were the qualifications for the 7 "table servers" so high? What does this tell you about the duty of "table serving"?
4. The seven men all had Greek rather than Hebrew names, implying that the Apostles commissioned only Hellenists to take care of both the Hellenistic *and* Hebrew widows. Since there were widows from both groups, would it have been better to appoint both Hellenists *and* Hebrews? Why or why not? What does this tell you about the Apostles' confidence in men who are full of the Spirit and wisdom?
5. Why do you think prayer is essential to the preaching of God's word?
6. Describe the power of the Word of God. What do you think would happen if every member of Hawaii Kai Church fully understood, were totally convinced of, and were absolutely convicted by the power and priority of the Word of God?