

We will now begin the seventh lecture on Acts. /Today we will begin with Acts 6. /The title of chapter 6 is “The Appointing of Deacons.”

/First, complaint about the distribution of food. /Verses 1-2. /Second, sharing of affairs. /Verses 3-6. /Third, the church increases. /Verse 7. /Fourth, Stephen’s evangelism. /Verses 8-10.

/Fifth, Stephen is persecuted by false evidence. /Verses 11-14. /Sixth, Stephen’s face becomes like that of an angel. /Verse 15.

/Read 6:1. /In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

/The number of believers increased in the times of the early church. /They helped those who were in need. /During those times, they began to complain and resent one another because of this problem.

/The Grecian Jews claimed that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. /Hence, they complained against the Hebraic Jews. /Here, “Grecian Jews” refer to believers born in the gentile regions.

/The “Hebraic Jews” refer to Jewish believers who were natives of Judea. /Then why were there complaints? /There are several causes.

/First, when the apostles distributed resources, they did not oversee the entire situation very well. /This is because as the number of church members grew, the apostles could not look after every one present.

/The second reason is that even if the apostles had distributed goods well, greed could have entered the believers so that they complained and showed resentment. /Even if they had done well, there will be complaints if people think by their own standards and greed.

/Problems such as these arose during the times of the early church. /The works of the devil rose up as the church expanded. /Conflict arose due to materialistic matters. /Problems arose.

/At that time, the apostles tried to solve this problem. /This problem had rose up because of distribution.

/This did not mean, however, that they could stop the distribution. /They needed to come up with a plan that did not stop the distribution.

/Verse 2. /So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

/The twelve apostles said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables." /Here, "all the disciples" refer to the believers. /One important duty of the apostles was to deliver the Word of God.

/However, it was not right for them to set aside their mission of delivering the Word of God in order to deal with the problem of distribution. /Therefore, trials entered the church. /Pastors today must pay close attention to delivering the Word and praying.

/When they make light of delivering the Word of God and praying, it will result in trials. /The church will be harmed and temptations will enter if these important works are set aside for other works.

/We must prioritize what is most important. /We must think about what is important. /We

each have different positions and spiritual gifts. /Romans 12:6 /We each have different gifts. /  
Ephesians 4:11

/Likewise, in the church, there are apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers. /There are those  
who teach the Bible, /those who distribute, /those who preach, /and those who serve.  
/Everyone must do their best in their positions.

/This is why the apostles tried to appoint deacons in the early church. /They tried to distribute  
the work. /No one can do everything by himself. /Exodus 18:13-18

/When Moses left Egypt, he served as judge for all the Israelites. /At that time, the people  
were tired and Moses was tired, too.

/At that time, Moses's father-in-law, Jethro, taught Moses to appoint officials over thousands,  
hundreds, and fifties. /Likewise, we must also appoint positions in the church to share duties  
and cooperate with one another.

/Verse 3. /Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit  
and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them

/When appointing people to take positions, we cannot appoint just anyone. /We cannot  
appoint just anyone to be a deacon. /According to verse 3, we must appoint people who are  
filled with the Spirit. /In addition, we must appoint people who are full of wisdom.

/We must appoint person who receive compliments. /Therefore, the qualifications to become  
a deacon are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, /to be led and governed by the Holy Spirit, /and  
to obey according to the will of God. /The person must be someone who follows God's word.

/Second, the person must be full of wisdom. /This does not refer to the wisdom of man. /This

refers to the wisdom of God. /1 Corinthians 2:13/ 3:18 /In the same way, we must work with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

/A deacon must not work with his own greed and desires. /He must work for God and according to the will of God. /1 Timothy 3:8 /1 Corinthians 2:13 /He must not teach according to human wisdom. /He must teach by God's wisdom.

/Third, they chose a person who was praised. /He is a person who built others up. /He was someone who was a benefit to others. /Truthful people must be chosen.

/Trustful people must be chosen /2 Corinthians 8:18-20 /They must be honest with church annual reports. /They must be clean regarding finances. /It is important for that person to be someone who receives compliments before others. /Matthew 5:16 /Acts 2:47

/He must not cover the glory of God, /and he must be someone who receives compliments even before unbelievers. /A deacon should be this type of person. /Next, they chose someone who was full of faith. /This is verse 5.

/In verse 5, it states that they chose a man who was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. /1 Timothy 3:1-8 /Here, it states the qualifications of an overseer and a deacon. /A person who is full of faith is a faithful person.

/He is someone who pleases God. /Exodus 18:13-20 /18:21 /In Exodus, they chose officials over thousands, hundreds, and fifties.

/They did not choose just anyone at that time, they chose people who were capable, /who feared God, /who was trustworthy, /who hated dishonest gain, /and they chose these types of people to become officials over thousands, hundreds, and fifties.

/Verse 4. /and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

/The apostles specialized in the work of prayer and ministry of the Word. /1 Samuel 12:23 /It says that Samuel did not commit the sin of ceasing in prayer for his people. /Psalm 145:18

/God listens to those who pray and seek God earnestly. /Matthew 7:7 /James 5:13 /Psalm 50:15 /God will listen to those who call out to him. /The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

/There is no other way to defeat Satan but through prayer. /Jesus' twelve disciples and the one hundred and twenty believers constantly joined together in prayer in John Mark's attic. / They poured out their all in prayer.

/Next, the apostles worked hard to preach God's word. /They studied the Word. /They taught the Word and trained the believers. /They taught the Bible. /Next, they evangelized diligently.

/They led unbelievers to church. /Therefore, pastors should not perform works of the world, but must give all his attention to the work of faith like the apostles. /They must give all their attention to the work of God.

/Pastors must study the Word, /prepare sermons well, /and feed the believers with the Word. / They must pray ceaselessly. /That is how God's works will take place.

/Thus, pastors do not perform works of this world, but must give themselves entirely to God's ministry. /They must become specialists. /The believers must offer gifts and tithes for living expenses to pastors of the church.

/In doing so, the work of God and the work of the church will flourish. /In doing so, the church will grow.

/Verse 5. /This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

/They chose seven people with faith. /They chose these seven qualified people. /Among them was Stephen. /There was also the deacon Philip who diligently evangelized.

/Another among them was Nicolas. /Nicolas appears in Revelation 2:15-16. /There appears a cult called the Nicolaitans, but we cannot know for sure if that person and this Nicolas from among the seven deacons are the same. /We do not know if they are the same person.

/Verse 6. /They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

/They chose these seven deacons and prayed, and laid their hands on them. /“Laid their hands on” means that they were ordained. /Numbers 27:18 /Deuteronomy 34:9 /This means that God entrusts that person with a position.

/To be given a position in the church means to be dedicated before God. /It also means that God will grant these people spiritual gifts.

/The deacon Stephen is later martyred in chapter 7. /The deacon Philip evangelizes diligently in chapter 8. /2 Timothy 1:6 /Timothy also received pastoral ordination.

/Verse 7. /So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

/Gradually, the Word of God spread. /The number of disciples increased. /Next, a large number of priests came to believe in Jesus. /God’s great works became evident.

/Why did this happen? /This is because in chapter 5, they got rid of Ananias and Sapphira.  
/They got rid of the yeast in the church. /They preserved the holiness of the church.

/Then, when complaints entered the church, they chose deacons for the correct distribution of food. /In addition, the apostles studied God's word, evangelized, spread the gospel, and specialized in the work of prayer.

/That is why the great work of God took place. /The number of people who believed in Jesus rapidly increased. /Likewise, priests also came to believe in Jesus. /In this way, the church works by the power of God.

/Even amidst persecution and suffering, more people became believers through the power of God. /The church revived.

/Verse 8. /Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

/Stephen was full of God's grace and power. /The deacon Stephen performed great wonders and miraculous signs. /The deacon Stephen was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit. /He was faithful until his death.

/Therefore, God worked through Stephen with great power. /Stephen saved many people through evangelism.

/Verse 9. /Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)-- Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen,

/There were Jews who came to Jerusalem from foreign places. /These Jews argued with Stephen. /Then they persecuted Stephen. /Here, there appears a man of the Freedmen, also known as Libertines.

/This person was known as a descendant of the Jews who were held in captivity in Rome. /Cyrene is a city that lies on the northern coast of Libya. /Cyrene is also known as Simon's hometown. /Luke 23:26 /There is also a place called Alexandria.

/"Alexandria" was a city located north of Egypt. /Next is Cilicia. /Cilicia was located in Asia Minor, and Ephesus was the capital of that region.

/These Jews, who were residents from many local areas, came to Jerusalem. /At that time, they argued with Stephen.

/Verse 10. /but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

/No one could stand up against Stephen because he was filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit. /This is because this spiritual wisdom came from God. /1 Corinthians 2:6-7 /He spoke the truth through the Holy Spirit with spiritual wisdom.

/No one could stand up to the deacon Stephen. /Matthew 10:19-20 /It says that we must not worry about what to say or how to say it when we are arrested. /It says that the Spirit of God will teach us what to say.

/Verses 11-14. /Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God." So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."



/The Jews produced false witnesses. /They tried to kill Stephen. /They said, “Stephen spoke against God.” /They falsely testified. /They stirred up the people and seized Stephen, and they brought him before the Sanhedrin.

/They presented deacon Stephen before the Sanhedrin. /What did the false witnesses say? /First, the false witnesses testified, “Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this temple.”

/Second, they claimed that the believers would “change the customs Moses handed down to us.” /They claimed that the believers of Jesus would “change the Law of Moses.”

/Jesus never said He would destroy the temple. /He said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” /John 2:19 /This symbolizes the body of Jesus.

/This means that if the Jews killed Jesus, the Lord would rise again in three days. /Also, the disciples did not change the Law of Moses. /The disciples said, “You are not saved by the Law, /but you are saved by faith in Jesus.”

/Therefore, these people were jealous and tried to kill Stephen by producing false witnesses.

/Verse 15. /All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

/The people in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen. /The deacon Stephen’s face was like that of an angel. /They tried to kill Stephen and produce false witnesses, but Stephen’s face became as beautiful as an angel.

/Stephen was at peace in his heart. /He was filled with joy. /He was meek. /He was filled with God’s presence. /He lived in a spiritual world.

/Therefore, he lived with God, /he lived with joy from God, /and he lived with comfort from God. /God's world is a world that is always at peace. /It is a kingdom of joy.

/Stephen thought, "It is a privilege to die for Jesus." /To die for Jesus is to be a martyr. /We look forward to an eternal heaven. /The deacon Stephen overcame all these persecutions.

/He transcended death. /He lived in the spiritual world. /The deacon Stephen took pity on the people who persecuted him. /He loved them. /The deacon Stephen thought, "I am now becoming more like Jesus."

/Thus, he was thankful for being persecuted. /Therefore, his face became like that of an angel. /We must also be glad when we are persecuted for the Lord. /Matthew 5:11-12

/We will continue the lecture with Acts 7. /The title of chapter 7 is "Stephen."

/First, Stephen's sermon, /Verses 1-53. /There are subtitles. /(1) Four proofs. /Verses 1-50.

/There are more subtitles. /① Abraham. /Verses 1-7. /② Joseph. /Verses 8-17. /③ Moses. /Verses 18-46. /④ Solomon. /Verses 47-50.

/(2) Rebuke. /Verses 51-53.

/Second, Stephen's martyrdom. /Verses 54-60.

/Chapter 7 speaks of Stephen's sermon and martyrdom.

/Read 7:1. /Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?"

/Stephen was interrogated by the Sanhedrin. /The high priest there interrogated him. /The high priest asked if the Jews' false testimonies were true.

/The deacon Stephen was charged and could very well die. /At that time, the deacon Stephen recited the Bible and preached. /He testified to Jesus with the Bible.

/Verses 2-3. /To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'

/Stephen first testified about Abraham. /Genesis 11:18-12:4. /Abraham left Ur of the Chaldeans and went to Canaan. /God said, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household."

/Abraham left Ur of the Chaldeans. /Then he stayed briefly in Haran. /Then he moved from Haran to Canaan.

/God told Abraham to leave Ur of the Chaldeans, and to leave Haran. /We must also leave our country, people, and father's household. /"Country" refers to materialism /and being centered on land. /It meant to leave that behind.

/Next, "people" refer to human affections. /It meant that he was not to follow other people. /"Father's household" refers to reliance. /It is boasting of one's father. /It is boasting of things of the world. /Father's household refers to boasting.

/This refers to boasting of the self and the world. /It is arrogance. /It is selfish desires. /God said to leave these things behind. /Then he would be blessed if he went where God lead him.

/Verse 4. /"So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living.

/Abraham left Ur of the Chaldeans, passed through Haran, and came to Canaan.

/Verse 5. /He gave him no inheritance here, not even a foot of ground. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child.

/God said he would give Canaan to Abraham, but he did not even give Abraham enough ground to set his foot on. /Genesis 12:7 /Exodus 15:4

/Still, Abraham believed that God would give him that land. /He believed God's words, "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky."

/Verse 6. /God spoke to him in this way: 'Your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

/God spoke to Abraham saying that his descendants would become slaves to a foreign nation for four hundred years. /Why did God allow Abraham's descendants to be enslaved in Egypt for four hundred years?

/This was to train Abraham's descendants, the Israelites. /He wanted to train them. /Acts 14:22

/Then after they were trained, God promised the Israelites that he would bring judgment upon Egypt. /This appears in verse 7.

/Verse 8. /Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs.

/After the birth of Isaac, Abraham carried out circumcision. /Then Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons. /What does it mean to be circumcised?

/It's a seal that one has become one of God's people. /It is to get rid of greed. /Jeremiah 4:4  
/It symbolizes becoming a part of God's covenant. /Genesis 17:11-13 /Acts 7:51  
/Circumcision of the heart is more important than physical circumcision.

/It is important to believe in Jesus Christ and throw away sin. /The Old Testament sacraments were circumcision and the Passover. /The New Testament sacraments are baptism and Communion.

/Verses 9-10. /"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

/Joseph's brothers sold Joseph. /Joseph lived in Egypt as a slave.

/Then he became a prime minister. /The Jews grew jealous and captured Jesus and killed Him. /However, God lifted Jesus up.

/Stephen taught about Jesus through Joseph. /Stephen taught that Jesus died and rose to life, and he taught by alluding to Joseph.

/Regarding Abraham, God said, "I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky," which meant that God would send Christ through Abraham's descendants. /Galatians 3:16 /Here, Stephen was testifying Jesus.

/Verse 11. /"Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our fathers could not find food.

/A famine struck Egypt and Canaan. /Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt and buy food. /They found Joseph there. /Then Joseph invited his father and his brothers into Egypt.

/Verse 14. /After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all.

/Here it says there were seventy-five people in Joseph's whole family. /Genesis 46:27 /Exodus 1:5 /There were seventy people. /The record of seventy people was a simplified record. /A detailed record says that there were seventy-five people.

/Verses 15-16. /Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our fathers died. Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money.

/Jacob went to heaven after he lived in Egypt for seventy years. /They had a burial for him. /It says here that the burial took place in Shechem. /Yet, in reality, Jacob was buried at a tomb in the field of Machpelah./ Genesis 49:29

/It was Jacob who bought land in Shechem. /Genesis 33:19 /Then why does it say that Jacob's burial took place in Shechem? /Jacob was buried in the cave of Machpelah.

/It is not important who bought the land. /The location is not important. /It was stated in such way because Abraham is the representative of his many descendants.

/The descendants believed that Abraham was their representative forefather, and thus, they spoke of "Abraham."

/Verse 17. /"As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of

our people in Egypt greatly increased.

/The Israelites flourished in Egypt. /It was as God had promised. /Genesis 15:13-16

/Verses 18-19. /Then another king, who knew nothing about Joseph, became ruler of Egypt. He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our forefathers by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.

/A new king in Egypt, who did not know Joseph, came to power. /The king ordered newborn baby boys to be thrown into the river water so that they would die.

/Verse 20. /"At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for in his father's house.

/Moses was born, and God saw that he was no ordinary child. /Moses was filled with faith and the Holy Spirit since he was born.

/Moses' parents did whatever they needed to save Moses. /They believed that God would use Moses to perform great works.

/Verse 21. /When he was placed outside, Pharaoh's daughter took him and brought him up as her own son.

/Pharaoh's daughter took Moses and adopted him.

/Verse 22. /Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.

/Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. /He studied a lot. /He was powerful

in speech and action. /In this way, he was powerful in speech and in actions of the world.

/Verse 23. /"When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites.

/When Moses was forty years old, he decided to save his people, the Israelites. /Moses learned all the teachings of the Egyptians by the time he was forty. /Hebrews 11:24-25 /He chose the path in which he would suffer together with God's people.

/Verse 24. /He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.

/Moses saw one of his people being mistreated, and he killed the Egyptian. / Moses tried to save the Israelites with his own strength. /He tried to save them through vigor and force.

/That was Moses' mistake. /The work of God is not fulfilled through worldly knowledge. /It is not fulfilled through rage and vigor and force. /It must be fulfilled through the power of the Holy Spirit.

/Why did Moses fail? /He failed after trying to do it on his own. /He tried to solve the problem through vigor and force, but failed. /He failed by trying to solve the problem with worldly knowledge.

/Later on, however, Moses went to the Midian Desert, and he lost his vigor and desire to do thing on his own.

/Then he repented there. /He came to rely solely on God. /Afterwards, Moses saved the Israelites through the power of God.

/Here we will conclude the seventh lecture on Acts. /Thank you.



