

# Studies in Acts

## Study eight

**Key verse:** Acts 6:2

"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables".



**Big Idea:** Knowing that the Church's main purpose is *to be proclaiming the gospel message* enables us to know how to deal with secondary issues.

### Kick Off

The saying goes, "fail to plan, plan to fail". What does it mean and do you think it is true?

What responsibilities do you have? Which ones would you like to give up? Never give up?

### STUDY

**Read Acts 6:1-7.**

1. What is the problem that has arisen in the early church?

- What bigger problems do you think lie behind this problem that has arisen?

2. Look up 2:44-5 and 4:32. How could the widows be getting neglected?

3. Write notes from these verses. What is God's heart for widows?

Deut. 14: 29

Psalm 68:5

Malachi 3:5

James 1:27

4. Given God's heart for caring for widows what value are we to put on the ministry of the word of God?

5. Many churches assume their minister is the one who should be responsible for and available to do house visits, hospital visits, admin work, song selection and countless other secondary things. Is this reasonable or wrong from this passage?

6. In what ways did the Apostles actually take responsibility for the widows?

7. Who got to choose seven servants and how is this significant?

What criteria did the seven have to meet for election and how would you go about ascertaining men of such standing?

*Note the three parts to placing Christian servants in ministry positions... godly character, congregational support and church leadership confirmation.*

8. What does Luke highlight in v7 as the main purpose of the church?

- What deduction (if any) can we make between the Apostles continuing to do Word ministry and the mention of **many priests** being won over to the faith?
- Look up John 13:35. How will all men know we are Christ's disciples?
- In what ways would the resolution of the widows' complaint actually have enhanced the spreading of God's word?

## THINK AND APPLY

How is caring for each other in church and seeing the word of God spreading intrinsically linked?

The ministry of the Word is of primary importance in Christ's church. Think of as many things as you can that happen in our church and discuss if they enhance or detract from the effective ministry of the Word happening among us?

- How relevant is team ministry in seeing God's word impact our world for salvation?

## PRAYER

**What can you pray about arising from this study?**



**For next week  
Read  
Acts 6:7-7:60**