How Jesus Meets the Needs of His People
Acts 6:1-7

Main Point:
Since faithful elders and deacons are vital for the church, give thanks and pray for those who serve in our congregation.

1. The church is to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of the people.

2. In order to meet the spiritual needs, Jesus has created the office of elder.

3. In order to meet the physical needs, Jesus has created the office of deacon.

4. When both offices function properly, the church is blessed and able to grow.

Cross-References and Quotations

Dennis Johnson "The apostles did not dismiss the Greek-speaking Christians as malcontents. Instead they addressed the problem seriously and promptly."

James 1:27 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJV)

Acts 20:28 28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (NKJV)

Matthew Henry "They must be God's mouth to the people in the ministry of the word, and the people's mouth to God in prayer."

Derek Thomas "The task of mercy ministry is too important to address casually. It is an extension of the mercy of Jesus to those in the flock who are weak and helpless, and those who administer it need to be Christlike in their approach."

Acts 13:2-3 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away. (NKJV)

RP Testimony 25.11 "The diaconate is a spiritual office subordinate to the session and is not a teaching or ruling office. The deacons have responsibility for the ministry of mercy, the finances and property of the congregation, and such others tasks as are assigned to them by the session."

Derek Thomas "This passage beckons us to examine our commitment to the Scriptures in the life of the church, as well as our concern for the physical welfare of the people of God. It cannot be a case of simply emphasizing one or the other. Both are necessary and vital to the life of the church."