

The Seven Are Chosen and Commissioned (6:1-7)

Luke emphasizes the amazing growth of the church under the Holy Spirit

He highlights this throughout: 2:41, 47; 4:4; 5:14; 9:31; 13:49; 16:5; 19:20

The early church was empowered by the Holy Spirit, but it wasn't perfect

There were those who came into the church who needed to be sifted out

In the same way Satan was seeking to attack and undermine the church

1) *Persecution*: Apostles 2) *hypocrisy*: Ananias/Sapphira 3) *distraction*: widows

I. Identifying the Problem (6:1)

"In those days the numbers of the disciples were increasing...complaint arose

Dispute had to do with food distribution "Hebraic Jews & Grecian Jews"

Problem: the apostles were not giving themselves to prayer & the Word

II. Finding the Solution (6:2-6)

Therefore, seek men from among you with three key characteristics

- 1) Men of good reputation
- 2) Full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom

III. Establishing a Vital Principle or a Right Priority

The ministry of waiting on tables was handed over to the 7 chosen men

The apostles were to give themselves continually to prayer

The apostles were to give themselves continually to the Word

IV. The Result (6:7)

- Church grew & the Word spread, a large number of priests believed