

# THE People OF JESUS notes

The People of Jesus – Week 5

## Called To Serve

March 21 & 22, 2009

Pastor Dave MacNeill

*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. 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. 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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 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 presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 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.* Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)

### 1. Threats to a Thriving Church:

#### a. Division

*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.* Acts 6:1(NIV)

#### b. Distraction

*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."* Acts 6:2 (NIV)

the people of jesus notes

### 2. The Solution is Service:

#### a. Serve to Preserve Unity & Purpose

*"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 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group.* Acts 6:3-5(NIV)

*...May they be brought to complete **unity** to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.* John 17:23 (NIV)

#### b. Serve in a Gifted Area of Strength

*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 presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.* Acts 6:5-6 (NIV)

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...* Romans 12:4-6 (NIV)

#### c. Serve to Impact Eternity

*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.* Acts 6:7 (NIV)

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.* 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

© Steve Davidson

completed notes & previous messages available @ [clovishills.com](http://clovishills.com)