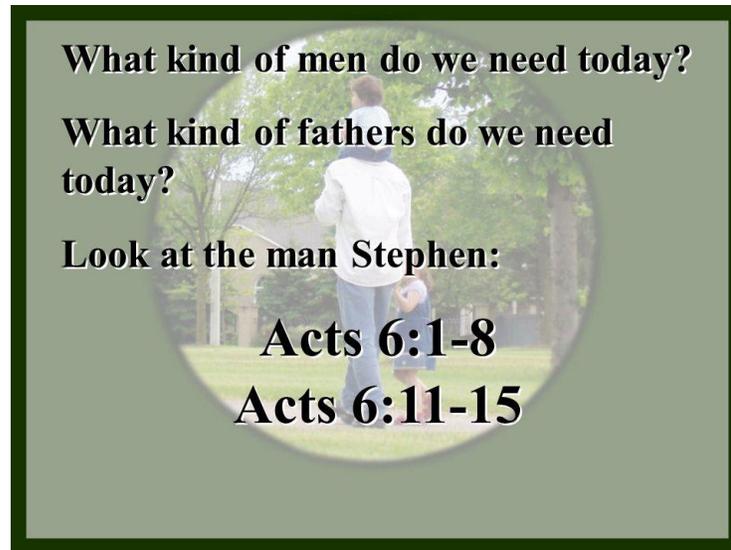


# SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017

## THEME – CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

### UNIT III – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL AS A CHRISTIAN IN GOD’S NEW TESTAMENT COMMUNITY

#### “A CALL TO SERVE GOD’S NEW TESTAMENT COMMUNITY BY ANSWERING THE MASTER’S CALL”



**Sunday School Lesson No. X – August 6, 2017**

**Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III ~ Pastor-Teacher**

**Lesson Text:** Acts 6:1-7

**Required Reading:** Acts 6 – 7

**Motto Text:** Acts 6:3, *“Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word Search Electronic Library; Dr. George T. Brooks, Sr.

#### **Introduction**

The New Testament Community called the Church is presently being examined from the Book of Acts. We have discovered that on the Day of Pentecost described in Acts Chapter 2, our Lord sent the Holy Spirit to the city of Jerusalem to fulfill the promise of Jesus Christ to His disciples. Acts 1:4-5, *“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”* This event was witnessed by thousands of the pilgrims of Pentecost that were in Jerusalem and led to the preaching of Peter that led to at least three thousand souls being saved. The stir of the New Community led to many other actions and reactions, among them healings, more sermons, more excitement, more converts (5000 men, Acts 4:4), and even arrests, prayer meetings, and the deaths of those who were not sincere of heart (Ananias and Sapphira). There were also magnificent miracles and conversions through the Apostles. (Read Acts 5). But all this leads us to the lesson for today in Acts 6 entitled **“A Call to Serve God’s New Testament Community by Answering the Master’s Call.”** We will discover that with great growth even in the Church came several challenges from within and without. Let us examine how this great community faced the challenges through the leadership of God’s Holy Spirit, the Apostles and its faithful disciples.

## Anticipated Power Points:

- A Call to Face Challenges from Within the Community of the Church. Acts 6:1
- A Call to Make Changes Within the Community of the Church. Acts 6:2-5
- A Call to Praise and Rejoice in the Success of God's Church Community. Acts 6:6-7

## LESSON OUTLINE

### "A Call to Serve God's New Testament Community by Answering the Master's Call"

#### I. A Call to Face Challenges from Within the Community of the Church. Acts 6:1

##### Issues arose. vs. 1

Though there were so many things common and in unity among the early fellowship, there was still the old nature of the flesh (Romans 7:18). It caused the Greek-speaking Jews to feel slighted by the Hebrew-speaking Jews in the early church in the daily administration of food towards its widows. This feeling of slight led to accusations and the beginning of strife among the brethren, or growing pains. According to Dr. George Brooks, "The people had begun to murmur or grumble." But thank God for the intervention of the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles. They were overloaded, but God had an antidote!

#### II. A Call to Make Changes Within the Community of the Church. Acts 6:2-5

The Apostles called the Hellenistic (Greek)-speaking Jews and the Hebrew-speaking Jews together, and with the leadership of the Holy Spirit, set some things in order!

- A. They would not leave the ministry of the Word and Prayer to oversee matters that could be handled by others in the fellowship. They were the ones Jesus was using to bring the message and miracle of His New Testament Community called the Church. But they knew that strife could destroy the best of things. v. 2
- B. They suggested that the people who felt slighted would select from among them, men who could carry out this business, but they had to be men of specific character. v. 3
  - a. Honest report (Integrity).
  - b. Full of the Holy Spirit (Not self-willed).
  - c. Wisdom (Could oversee with fairness).
- C. The people followed these orders and delivered 7 men of Hellenistic background, but all had the qualities demanded by the Apostles, and were accepted and commissioned. Then the apostles were not impeded in their God-given assignments to further the growth of the early church. vv. 4-5

(NOTE: The challenges from within the New Testament Community were faced with faith, and God gave a great increase to the Church. Acts 6:6-7, "*Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*")

#### III. A Call to Praise and Rejoice in the Success of God's Church Community. Acts 6:6-7

As we reflect upon the situation that brought about the decisions that were made by the Apostles, it seems Satan attempted to bring division in the early Church. But God made the early Church strong, faithful and united. Even the seven men who were chosen and commissioned had names that spoke of God's power and omniscience. According to George Brooks, "Stephen (crowned), Philip (lover of horses), Prochorus (leader of the chorus), Nicanor (conqueror), Timon (honorable), Parmenas (abiding), and Nicolas (victor of the people), proselyte from Antioch. Seven were not chosen so that an odd number could break a tie vote. Seven were chosen because seven were needed to meet the needs of the congregation."

## CLOSING

Beloved, the Lord's New Testament Community called the Church is still alive and well. Jesus Christ the Saviour, Master, Bridegroom and King is looking for those who submit to His lordship and become listeners and responders to His clarion call! "*The Lord has need of workers to till His field today. So kindly He has led me, to walk in wisdom's way. I pray for grace to help me, with all my heart to say, Oh Blessed Saviour, count on me.*"

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**LOOKING AHEAD:**

**August 13, 2017**

**Acts 8:26-39**

**Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.**