

10/10/2021 – When God's People Bless the Ethné Acts 6 NIV

The Issue. ¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the **Hellenistic Jews** among them complained against the **Hebraic Jews** because their widows were being **overlooked in the daily distribution of food**.

There was an unequal distribution of food between Jewish widows who were _____ and _____ . This was an issue of _____ not _____

The Godly Response of the Apostles ² 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. ³ Brothers and sisters, **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 ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ 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. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

1. The apostles _____, _____, and _____.
2. They _____ the _____ to appoint people to _____.
3. They decide that _____ is more important than _____.
4. _____ of the people they chose were _____.

The Result ⁷ 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.

1. In the short-term, the _____ spreads, especially among _____.
2. In Acts 6-8, Stephen + Philip become the most _____ of the church.
3. The church of Antioch gets planted by people like Nicholas, and the _____ is changed.

Philippians 2 ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Jesus took _____ and _____.

Do I have an open, curious, listening heart?

When it comes to character, what am I known to be full of?

Will we become a church that finds people different from us, disciples and empowers them to change the world?

Will I take what God has given to me and steward it for others?