

God Can Use Deacons in a Marvelous Way

Acts 6:1-8

We learn of the first “deacons” in Acts chapter 6. A deacon is simply a humble servant of Christ whose task is to take care of certain local church administrative matters so that the leadership may devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:2-4). In Jerusalem’s megachurch (probably consisting of at least 10,000 believers by this time), a problem had arisen when certain Hellenistic widows had been neglected.

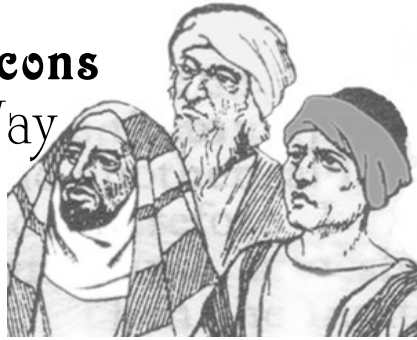
The Apostles decided that the whole congregation should choose seven of their number to handle the matter based on these qualifications (Acts 6:3):

- 1) These servants must be males;
- 2) They must be of honest report, having a good reputation and an excellent testimony for Christ;
- 3) They must be full of the Holy Spirit, controlled by Him and not marked by carnality;
- 4) They must be full of wisdom and able to apply God’s Word to any given situation.

Seven men were chosen (Acts 6:5). Five of these seven are not known apart from their mention here, reminding us that much of the work of God is carried on by unknown, unsung individuals who faithfully carry out the tasks entrusted to them, quite content to leave the limelight to others. Two of the seven were mightily used of God. We learn of Stephen in Acts 7 and marvel at his deep grasp of Scripture, his convicting message and his bold stand for Christ at the cost of his own blood. We learn of Philip in Acts 8 and are fascinated by His love for the Samaritans and his faithful preaching of the Gospel. He was sensitive to the Spirit’s leading as he left the fruitful campaign in Samaria to minister to one African man in the desert who had a seeking heart.

What a tremendous example these men were to those who faithfully serve as deacons today!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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