

The Acts of the Apostles

Act 7

Expanding the New Community

The Acts of the Apostles

More expanded structure:

- I. An Introduction to Acts (1:1-14)
- II. The Word in Jerusalem (1:15-6:7)
- III. The Word goes out from Jerusalem (6:8-9:31)
- IV. The Word Advances in Judea & Syria (9:32-12:25)
- V. The Word goes to Cyprus & Asia Minor (13:1-16:5)
- VI. The Word goes to Europe (16:6-18:22)
- VII. The Word in Ephesus: Climax of Paul's Mission as free man
(18:23-20:38)
- VIII. Paul's Final Missionary Journey: To Jerusalem & Rome (21:1-
28:31)

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***Word of God continued
unhindered***

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- Acts 6:1-2

Acts 5:42 “And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

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It was obvious why:

1. *When the Word is taught thoroughly and constantly, Jesus' followers have a deep sense of who God is, who they are, & how grateful they are to God for what He has done...when this happens, their cup is full and they overflow onto others*
 2. *When followers of Jesus have their faith dumbed down, they are guilt ridden, shame laden, have no sense of who God is, and try and drive the Gospel forward out of compulsion and drive people away in this self-oriented process*
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An Elder has 3 callings:

1. *Teach*

2. *Pray*

3. *Shepherd – primarily through teaching & prayer*

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Ask yourself several questions:

- 1. Is this really about teaching & prayer for the church at large?*
 - 2. Am I encumbering the very people God is trying to free up to teach & pray?*
 - 3. Is God's Spirit maybe tapping ME to do something?*
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- Acts 6:3-4

General Observations:

1. *Trust they have for their people*
 2. *Qualifications:*
 - a) *“good reputation”*
 - b) *“full of the Spirit”*
 - c) *“full of wisdom”*
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*Result = the freedom to “devote”
themselves to what God built them and
called them to do*

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- Acts 6:5-7



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Is. 55:10-13

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

“For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

“Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, And it will be a memorial to the LORD, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off.”

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“a great many priests” = Why is this mentioned?

1. *Many of them were actually Sadducees*
2. *Their job was supposed to be teaching the people but they lost their sense of God's greater narrative*

II Chronicles 15:3

“For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law.”
