

BIBLE STUDY – ACTS Chapter 6 – Leader Notes

1. The sense of “all the disciples” here is that of a deliberative body rather than a loose assemblage. Luke may be thinking of the 120 or a representative group rather than the entire (by his reckoning now quite large) community of believers. For all the prophetic authority of the Twelve, it is striking that on such critical decisions the discernment of the community is invited. (Sacra)

Involving a larger group a number of things can take place. 1) More good solutions may be discovered. 2) There will be more ownership and therefore more help in carrying out the plans that are made.

2. This expression could well be rendered “to see to meals.” They were not claiming that the work of seeing to meals for widows was beneath them. It would be a mistake to think that the apostles thought that waiting on tables was “unspiritual” work. The ministry of the Word of God and waiting on tables are both spiritual when they are done by spiritual persons. That is true of every God -pleasing occupation. Service done for Jesus’ sake, done as to the Lord is spiritual service. But the particular service to which the Lord had called the Twelve was to proclaim the word. (PBC)

3. They were to be full of the Spirit and wise. Both spiritual and practical aptitudes are included.

The murmuring had come from the Greek-speaking segment of the church; so those elected to care for the work came from their number so as to represent their interests fairly.

4. Many believed in the gospel. To believe is to obey God’s call, but faith also produces obedience (Eph 2:8–10; Jas 2:14–26). – This is another way of saying “believed the gospel” or “trusted in Christ.” (CSB)

5. This means that Stephen enjoyed special gifts in addition to the wisdom and faith which were noted at the time of his election as “deacon.” He was able to employ those gifts in doing great wonders and miraculous signs. (PBC)

The signs pointed to God’s grace and power, not only present in Stephen but available for all. They were invitations to hear the gospel message. (PBC)

6. Luke describes Stephen’s attackers as those who, like Stephen, were born and grew up in one of the countries listed in Acts 2 and had come back to Jerusalem to live. (CSB)

7. They accused Stephen of blasphemy (v. 11). They stirred up the people (v. 12). They produced false witness (v. 13). They misinterpret Jesus’ words about His temple (v. 14).

8. Stephen’s face likely shone with heavenly light, a sign of Christ’s indwelling and the nearness of God’s presence. (PBC)