The Demands of a Growing Church

Sunday, May 16, 2021 | Acts 6
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[1]In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2]until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen… [8]"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"… [10]And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, [11]and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." —Acts 1:1-2, 8, 10-11

WBC Mission Statement: *Warren is a community of believers surrendered to the authority of Jesus Christ and dedicated to advancing the gospel together in our neighborhoods and around the world as we make disciples and multiply disciple-makers.*

1. The Church is Born at _____

[32]This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses… [40]And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." [41]So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.
—Acts 2:32, 40-41

[1]And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, [2]greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. [3]And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. [4]But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. —Acts 4:1-4

[14]And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women… [42]And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus. —Acts 5:14, 42

2. The Church is Torn by _____

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. —Acts 6:1

Notes:

3. The Church is Shorn Through _____

2And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word"… 7And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.
—Acts 6:2-4, 7

"The answer was not to limit the growth, but to engage the people."

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: —Philippians 1:1

8Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. —1 Timothy 3:8-13

Deacons…
- are selected based on character (Acts 6:3)
- serve to reduce conflict and extend care (Acts 6:1)
- support the Great Commission (Acts 6:7)

High Five for Deacons:
1. Pace Setters
2. Problem Solvers
3. Peace Makers
4. Promise Keepers
5. Prayer Warriors

These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. —Acts 6:6

Notes:

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