

Witnesses Sent to Serve

After his resurrection, Jesus both empowered and directed his closest disciples to go into all the world and tell the world of God's eternal plan. Jesus called them to be a witness of the things they had experienced and seen.

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. ² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. ³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. ⁷ Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. ⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Acts 6:1-8

As a direct of this empowering, Jesus' disciples went out sharing and sharing the *good news* of the love of God as extended to mankind on the cross at Calvary. Many of the Jewish faith converted over and believed. God's desire is that men from all nations be saved and his will was being fulfilled through these witnesses. As they settled into their respective communities, the need to provide a stable environment conducive to spiritual growth was being exposed.

God's way of doing things is always the best and he had his witnesses settle into selecting of established and seasoned witnesses to take care of some others who felt they were being neglected. When we are distracted by the cares of this world it is sometimes hard to hear or listen to the Lord though his word. Peter saw and heard the distraction and moved to resolve the issues for two reasons: As an elder of the local church, he was responsible for declaring the word to the people but he himself was distracted by the need to attend to the complaints. The second reason was their concerns were legitimate and needed to be minimized.

As lights in this world, let of be mindful that we have been empowered and directed to be witnesses of the true Light. One of the many ways we can allow that light to shine through us is in our willingness to be available for service and hands-on type ministries within our local churches. We cannot say we have nothing to do for as sure as we have people there will be a need to share and serve.

