

**Sermon Series:**  
**“Giving Your Life Away”**  
***Giving to Physical Needs***

**November 1, 2009**  
**Acts 6:1-7**

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## **Time in the Word**

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### **Read & Observe: Acts 6**

Setting the stage, Acts 5 shows the church with deception on the inside and persecution on the outside. On the heels of all this comes an accusation of favoritism, or at least inequality, concerning the care within the community. Try to look beyond the administrative decisions and peer into the heart of the decisions. There seems to be a concern which is on, or above, the level of the original issue. The idea is to strengthen the church every way possible. A verse comes to mind for me: Mat. 23:23b.

### **Answer**

#### 1. Verse 1

a. A picture of great encouragement opens Ch. 6. Now a picture of great concern takes its place. Describe the blessing and the challenge. Do they have any relationship? If so, how?

b. Read Ch.2:42-47. What happened to the harmony and the “have-nots” of the community?

c. Why do you think the Hellenistic (Grecian) Jews complained? Why do you think they were being overlooked? Was it an administrative, social, relational, or other issue?

#### 2. Verse 2-3

a. When the Twelve gathered together what was their first concern? Why? What did the Twelve see as their calling within this community?

b. Does it surprise you the Twelve never took up the question of the apparent inequality?

c. Describe the ministry of the Word. Who do you think this pertains to in our church?

d. Who do you think chose the seven? How did they do this with such a divided group?

What were the qualifications for the “seven”?

#### 3. Verse 4-7

a. This was a ministry which already existed in the church. Why did it have to come to this point of administration? What part now did the Twelve play in the care of this “new” ministry?

b. List all the benefits of this “new” approach to this ministry? Notice anything missing?



## **Time for the Heart**

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Think about DEC for a moment. One day it was a little church of 125. Thirty – six years later it is almost one thousand. What do you think was easy then as opposed to now? Those called to the work of the Word & prayer, are they doing it? How about our ministries – are we freeing people enough to do ministry? How will we know when we have a good balance? Do you have a sense of were God has called you in building His church? All of this is important to spreading God’s word, increasing disciples, and obedience to the faith.