

# Radical Leadership

## Lessons from the Book of Acts

By Dr. Derek J. Morris

# The Challenge of Ministry

**Acts 6:1**

**“Now in those days when the number of disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.”**

# Questions

- **How large was the Christian community at this time?**
- **Was this food distribution problem real or imaginary?**
- **Was the neglect accidental or deliberate?**

# **21<sup>st</sup> century application**

- **Most of us do not have a great challenge with food distribution**
- **What is your greatest challenge in ministry right now?**

# What solution was suggested?

- **Acts 6:2-3**

**“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. 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...”**”

# The importance of delegation

- **What important points do we need to remember when delegating ministry responsibilities to others?**
  - **Good reputation**
  - **Full of the Holy Spirit**
  - **Full of wisdom**

# Lessons about delegation from Forest Lake Church

- **Help with administration**
  - **Lois**
  - **Roger**
- **Help with Bible teaching and preaching**
  - **Oleg**
  - **Emanuel**

# The importance of keeping the right focus in your ministry

**Acts 6:4**

**“But we will give our attention continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**

➤ **PRAYER**

➤ **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

# Examples of devotion to prayer in the Book of Acts

- **Acts 1:14**
- **Acts 4:24-31**
- **Acts 12:5, 13-16**
- **Acts 16:25**

# **The example of the apostles**

**Although Christ had given the promise to His disciples that they should receive the Holy Spirit, this did not remove the necessity of prayer. They prayed all the more earnestly; they continued in prayer with one accord. Those who are now engaged in the solemn work of preparing a people for the coming of the Lord, should also continue in prayer. *Gospel Workers, 371***

# **Lessons about prayer from Forest Lake Church**

- **Our experience at Forest Lake Church**
- **Why do so few people attend prayer services?**
- **How can your church become a house of prayer for all people in your community?**
- **Praise, Prayer, the Word, and Outreach**

# The promise of spiritual revival

- **“We must have times set apart for meditation and prayer and spiritual refreshing. We do not value the power and efficacy of prayer as we should. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish.” Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, 509**

# The Ministry of the Word

**Acts 6:4 “We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**

**➤ We have no right to preach and teach the Word of God to others unless we have first listened to the Word of God ourselves.**

# Examples of ministry of the Word in the Book of Acts?

- **Acts 2:14-39**
  - Joel
  - Psalms
- **Acts 6:8-10 (Acts 7)**
  - Genesis
  - Exodus
  - Deuteronomy
  - Amos
  - Isaiah
- **Acts 8:4-8**

# Questions

- **What is your greatest challenge in taking time for the Word of God personally?**
- **What are some ways that have helped you to listen to God's Word?**

# Lessons about preaching from Forest Lake Church

- **Preaching well is hard work**
- **Planning a preaching calendar is vitally important for good preaching**
- **If you devote yourself to the ministry of the Word, God will enlarge your circle of influence**
  - **CD distribution**
  - **Web ministry/Television ministry**

# **Blessed results of delegation and devotion to prayer and the Word**

## **Acts 6:7**

**“Then the word of God spread, and the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”**

- Word of God spread**
- Number of disciples increased greatly**
- Great many priests were obedient to the faith**

# Radical Leadership

- **Delegation guided by the Holy Spirit to individuals who are**
  - Of good reputation
  - Full of the Holy spirit
  - Full of wisdom
- **Devotion to prayer**
- **Devotion to the ministry of the Word**
- **The process and the results will be supernatural.**

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