

Sermon Notes

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People, Problems and Great Growth

Acts 6:1-7 (pew Bible pg. 914)

People and problems. Like it or not, the two go together. Where there is more than one person, there is the potential for problems. Where there are many people, problems are not potential, they are certain. This is true because we are all sinners and we are all human, with inherent weaknesses and limitations. But where the Spirit of God is at work and the Word of God is being obeyed, people and problems also bring the potential for great growth within the church. This is what we see in Acts 6. The church in Acts is a model church, but it is not a perfect church. There is much we can learn and apply from the way God worked through those believers and their problems to bring about great growth.

Growth is Good:

Christ wants to see disciples grow in the faith and in number (Acts 6:1)

Is it just about the numbers? No! But in the book of Acts, Luke repeatedly mentions the numbers of people in the church. Real church growth is gospel-growth where individuals grow as gospel-centered disciples of Christ and the number of individuals who come to faith in Christ also grows.

Issues are Inevitable:

Christ wants to see us recognize and respond in faith (Acts 6: 2-ff)

The church in Acts is a model church, but it is not a perfect church. It was a Spirit-filled, world-changing church; but because the church was filled with people, it also had problems. In a messed-up world, there are always messes to clean up – even in the church. Christ gives us this example in Acts 6 as a guide for how we should seek to grow our church.

Increase is Contagious:

When the church works in unity the Word increases and souls are saved (Acts 6:7)

Luke describes what happens when the church comes together to solve the problem, effectively cares for the needs of each other, and faithfully proclaims the good news of the gospel. The influence and impact of the Word of God increases as it is faithfully taught and widely proclaimed. As a result, many come to faith in Christ. David Platt calls it “the normal church pattern: preach, pray, grow, anticipate drama, manage the drama, pray, keep preaching, and then get ready for more drama. When it hits, keep praying.”

Applications for You and Our Church

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Applications for You and Our Church

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

What does it mean to have shared ministry in the local church? Why is this so vitally important?

What does this passage teach us about the constant threats to the unity of the church Body? Why must remain vigilant? What does that look like?

How passionate are you to see the church grow? What do you believe your role is in that? Are you filling that role?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Contact Us

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Upcoming Events

February 1 - Membership Class
February 9 - Sportsman's Banquet
March 20 - Church Conference
April 6 - One Day with God
April 13 - Mom 2 Mom Spring Sale

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