

Life Church Sunday June 28, 2020

Pastor Eva

Acts Chapter 6 New International Version (NIV)

6 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.”

¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³ They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.”

¹⁵ All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts Chapter 6 – Part 4

The number of disciples increased rapidly. How do we describe a disciple?
What are the characteristics of a disciple?

The word disciple means a learner, a student, an apprentice.

- Disciples have teachers – Matthew 9:11; Mark 4:37-39
- Disciples follow their teacher – Matthew 4:18-20
- Learn from their teachers – Matthew 11:28-30
- Do God’s will- Matthew 7:21
- Disciples leave behind their old way of life - Acts 6:7
- Disciples are expected to grow and mature – Hebrews 5:12-14
 - Prayer – Luke 11:1-4; Luke 18:1
 - Meeting together – Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Living by the Spirit – Galatians 5:15-26
 - Studying the Word – 2 Timothy 2:15
 - Denying themselves – Matthew 16:24
 - May be hated by the world– John 15:18-19, Acts 6:8-14
- Disciples make other disciples – Matthew 28:18-20
- By their example – 1 Corinthians 11:1
- By being known – John 13:34-35
- By teaching teachers – 2 Timothy 2:2