**Black Preacher Sermon.Com**

**Follow The Leader (Part 3)**



(Acts 6:1-4 KJV)

*1And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

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et me be clear that there is a mere difference between the pastor and the deacon—both are ordained and charged with doing good. Moreover their main task is to serve and protect the well being of the church. I once ask a member do you know the main difference between the Past and Deacon they replied, “Yes” that the pastor was paid for doing good, but the deacon, however, was good for nothing.

Well let’s fact the biblical fact that Deacons, by their very title, are called to serve. In the NT, the Greek word used is "diakonos." This word is translated in some places as “deacon” and in other places; it is translated as “servant.” The verb form of the word is translated “to serve.”

In the apostle’s day, when the church was newborn, there was a need for servants to assist in the administration or ministry of meeting the needs in the church. The great celebration of Pentecost had come in chapter 2 and the church was glowing and growing. Now up to this apparent point the church mostly consisted of devote Jews. They met and worshiped at the temple as well as in homes. The persecution of the new church was just starting. Moreover, at the church, there were two groups of Jews. The Hebrew or Herbronic Jews—these were the native Jews, those born and raised in Palestine and spoke mostly Aramaic. The other group was the Hellenist or Grecian Jews. These were Jews that were part of the Diaspora and returned to their homeland—they were mostly Greek speaking Jews.

The estimated numbers of Jew were 5,000 which only consisted of men, it did not include the women or children so this number could have easily have been doubled or tripled. But when a church grows, there are problems. Who is going to do duty in the nursery, who is going to teach the children, who is going to visit all the sick, and minister to those in need? In that early church, they had those problems and some cultural divisions to deal with as well.

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There were problems between the Grecian and Native born Jews. No surprise here. Even outside the church community there were problems. These were not racial problems for the Jewish community stayed within their own bloodlines more than any other culture – this true even today. However, The Native born Jews were “more pure,” more traditional. The foreign born Jews were “liberal.” The native born held tightly to the ancient traditions. The foreign born had new ways and customs.

The Native born had their traditional hymns and songs. The foreign born were more contemporary. There was friction between the traditional folk and the contemporary people. Any of this sounds familiar? There is an old saying, the more things seem to change, the more they are really the same. We have these same problems today. And one group was not being cared for like the other.

Now here is the problem: The Apostles were not preaching, they were not attending to the Word. They were putting out fires. You can image the squabbles that were happening. The unity in the church had to be maintained and the apostles couldn’t do it all themselves.

1. **The Season Of The Trouble**

(Acts 6:1 KJV)

*"In those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied."*

Whenever God's work is prospering, Satan gets upset and will do much in his power to cause trouble and hinder the work. Many times after a church has experienced unusual blessing, trouble comes to take away from the blessing. It was after the disciples did some great work that their ministry was threatened by the Sanhedrin (Acts 4 as an example). Paul's ministry often felt strong opposition after he had done a great work for God (Acts 16 as an example). To be a good witness for Christ, you must be able to stand against this opposition.