



Acts

Lesson 6, Chapter 6-7

History in the making: the Book of Acts is just that. It is the record of many of the most important events to ever touch our world. With the coming of the Holy Spirit came the possibility of taking the truth and hope of Jesus to not just Jerusalem and its close proximity, but to the “uttermost parts of the world.” The first chapters of Acts record the birth of the Church through the leadership of the Apostles, or the twelve who followed Jesus most closely. As the Holy Spirit descended upon His people, life became new and challenging. The enemy was at work seeking to destroy this small band of believers. But God had something else in mind, and His purposes are never thwarted. Despite intense persecution by the Jewish leadership and inward struggles with sin in Ananias and Saphira, the Church continued to multiply. With this new growth came the difficulty of ministering to so many new believers. The Church had grown so quickly that the daily details of their care became more demanding on the leadership. One significant ministry was making sure the widows from the body were fed. There were two groups of

widows among them. One group was Jewish widows that were Hellenized (or Greek speaking), and they had a more modern or secularized culture. The other group was the traditional Hebrew speaking widows who had followed Jewish traditions and culture more closely. Some of the widows were being overlooked in the food distribution, and soon complaints were being heard within the group. The twelve apostles were having a difficult time keeping up with the physical and spiritual needs of the growing amount of people. God had called them to specifically teach and preach. They decided to delegate some of the responsibilities for physical needs to other faithful, godly men. With God’s direction and protection, another attempt by the enemy to divide and disband the believers was frustrated. But, Satan was not finished yet in his efforts to hinder God’s plans. Soon new opposition would arise, and with it would come the first martyr of the Church. But even in this God’s purposes were accomplished. As the believers are dispersed to the areas beyond Jerusalem to find safety, the gospel of Christ goes with them.

READ ALL OF CHAPTER 6

1. *Read Exodus 15:22-16:12 & 17:1-7. The word for “grumbling,” which means “to mutter words of discontent,” is the same in these verses as in Acts 6:1. What were the people in Exodus and in Acts upset about?*

2. *What did Moses say the Israelites were actually guilty of in Exodus 16:8 and 17:7?*

3. *What would have been some possible correct ways to handle the problems the people in both these passages faced? What can you learn from these situations in handling your own discontent?*

4. *From Acts 6:8-14, why did the Freedmen have a problem with Stephen, and what prompted them to bring him to the Sanhedrin?*

5. *What do you think it means that Stephen's face was "like the face of an angel?" Read also Exodus 34:29-35.*

READ ALL OF CHAPTER 7

6. *What charges were brought against Stephen?*

7. *What was the only question that Stephen was asked? How did he answer it?*

8. *List 6-8 specific people that Stephen mentions from Israel's history.*

9. *The speech on the history of Israel was common knowledge to all of his hearers so what was Stephen really trying to teach them? Vs. 51-53*

10. *In what ways does their response reveal their hearts?*

11. *What is implied about Saul in vs. 58?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
