

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **January 26, 2020** sermon, "Wise Leadership." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 6:1-7) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN FACING DIFFICULT CHALLENGES, WISE LEADERS SHOULD FOCUS ON . . .

1. The issues needing to be addressed (1)
 - a. Issues arise between Hellenists and Hebraists.
 - i. Greek speakers vs Aramaic speakers
 - ii. Transplants vs Traditionalists
 - b. The Hellenist widows were being neglected. Wise leaders listen to criticisms.
 - i. Some things are essential and some are additional.
 - ii. Some ministry must be retained, while other ministry must be delegated.
2. The methods needing to be changed (2-3)
 - a. "Methods are many, principles are few; methods always change, principles never do."
 - b. As the church was growing, it was important to develop structures of inclusion.
3. The priorities needing to be maintained (4)
 - a. The Apostles must not neglect the ministry of the Word and prayer.
 - b. However this new ministry of inclusion was developed, it would require more workers.
4. The standards needing to be upheld (5-6)
 - a. It is important that leaders share the vision, casting it wide enough for buy-in.
 - b. Significant ministries require sharing and delegating responsibility.
5. The results needing to be observed (7)
 - a. Unity in Christ (though not 'uniformity')
 - b. Produces multiplication of disciples.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Though it was young, the early church already needed to change its traditions/methods. Are there any methods in the church today which reduce effectiveness to a certain sub-set of the called-out congregation? What was/is the goal of the "method" in question?
2. Based on #3, above: New ministries require buy-in and ownership from Spirit-led believers. Simply stated, this means that people with constructive criticism need to be willing to do something to address the area they see as lacking while maintaining humility and unity. Discuss.
3. Based on #4, above: Throughout the recent history of the church, para-church ministries sometimes kick-start the local church. Campus ministries of the 1960s and 70s led to youth ministries in churches. Promise Keepers in the 90s has led to local church Men's Ministries. Are there any current para-church ministries which inspire your heart for the local church?
4. Based on #5, above: When the church addresses an area of need it often requires more servants and produces both unity growth. Has God placed a specific of ministry on your heart that seems neglected? How can we join you in prayer?