



## Introduction to Acts 6:1-7

Sunday, May 21, 2017  
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Serving others is not a habit that comes naturally to us. Sadly, part of the effect of the fall has been that we are more interested in being served rather than serving others. Even when we do serve we often carry seeds of self-love in our hearts—hoping that others will notice our service and praise us for our good deeds. Because of that, many acts of service become tainted because it was driven by something other than the Holy Spirit-induced love for others.

Thankfully, Jesus came to show us what it means to be a truly obedient servant in the kingdom of God. Jesus showed us first that the purpose of His life (and therefore what ought to be the purpose of our lives) is not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45). While we cannot serve in the same *role* that Jesus does as Messiah, we can serve in the same *way* that He does. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1; Acts 10:38) and we can be filled with the Holy Spirit as well when we are saturated with and obedient to the teaching of the Bible.

Not only that, but God has given us great examples of servants throughout the history of the church, not least of which was the first group of deacons appointed in Jerusalem. May we be imitators of those servants of the Lord.

## Context

Acts 6 gives us a glimpse into some of the struggles of the early church. The book of Acts is a series of movements that demonstrate the expansion of the gospel. Those movements begin with the expansion of the gospel in Jerusalem. Thankfully, we are encouraged to find that there were many similar issues at that time as there are today: racial and cultural divisiveness, complaining, manipulation. But this historical context not only shows us how we are like the early church in terms of problems, but also how God can remedy those things if we follow the Bible carefully.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“The Serving Saint”

Read Acts 6:1-7

Qualifications – 6.3

- Full of the Spirit
- Full of wisdom

Full of the Spirit?

- Practical wisdom
- Strong faith
- Under the influence Eph. 5
- Song in your heart Eph. 5
- Exhibit the fruit Gal. 6

What happens when you are filled?

Serve Others

- Physical needs Acts 6
- Spiritual needs Acts 8
- Emotional needs Acts 21

## **Discuss**

- 1) Describe a time when you were served by people in the church. What did they do? What was their attitude like?
  
- 2) Why is it necessary to be filled with the Spirit before you can serve God and others according to His purposes? (Consider John 15:5; Galatians 5:16-25)
  
- 3) How would you describe someone who is “under the influence of the Holy Spirit”? (Consider Ephesians 5:18-21)
  
- 4) What would it look like for you to serve God by caring for the physical or emotional needs of another person in the church?
  
- 5) What would it look like for you to care for the spiritual needs of another person in the church? How can you intentionally seek out opportunities this week to serve people in that way?