



99. Food Servers Wanted

“Widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So the twelve ... said, ‘It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.’ The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.” Acts 6:1-6

Widows were important but some of them were being ignored in the midst of the persecution, preaching,

and great growth in the church in Jerusalem. The Apostles couldn't do everything. Their time serving tables would be time away from their primary ministry. Delegation was needed. It was time to select some food servers.

Imagine this advertisement on a poster in Jerusalem. "Wanted: seven food servers ... must be men of good reputation, must be full of the Holy Spirit, and must have great wisdom. No food service experience necessary." How would we choose such people in the church today? Would we look for men with the same qualifications? Would their first day on the job begin with a laying-on-of-hands ceremony? Stephen became one of the food servers. Later he preached the longest sermon in Acts and became the first Christian martyr. Philip was another of the food servers and he became an evangelist. The Apostles knew how to choose the right men.