



ACTS

EMPOWERED
FOR MISSION

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Acts 6:1 (NIV)

² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:2-4 (NIV)

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:5-7 (NIV)

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⁴ But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

Acts 4:4 (NIV)

Demographics of the Jerusalem Church (ca. 30s)

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- Origin: Jerusalem and surrounding area
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- Origin: Jerusalem and surrounding area
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Minority: Hellenistic Jews

- Origin: All over the Roman Empire
- Language: mother tongue + Greek
- Culture: various

⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

^{34b} For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Acts 2:45; 4:34b-35 (NIV)

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THE WORLD
Mercator Projection

0 miles 1000 2000 3000 miles

scale at the Equator

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¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, **the Chinese-speaking Jews** ~~the Hellenistic Jews~~ among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

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Acts 6:2-4 (NIV)

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Mei Zhang, Yujen Lee, Ming Liu, Haiyen Chen, Lifeng Wang, Kuoshu Wu, and Weili Zheng, who is from Beijing ~~Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.~~⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:5-6 (NIV)

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Acts 6:5-7 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV)

- ⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
- ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
- ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death —
even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV)

We are people
who give away power