

Sermon Discussion Questions

“HOW DOES THE LORD REPAIR AND RESTORE THE WORLD?”

Discuss

Though we are given few details about Adam and Eve’s perfect life in the Garden of Eden, we can guess that there was no trouble with communication and no time when an unmet need sparked resentment or grumbling since we know that before the Fall there was no need, no lack, no suffering, and no sorrow. Alas, how different the world became as a result of the Fall. Even if we do not fully subscribe to 17th-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes’ description of the natural state of man as being “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short,” we cannot fail to see the evils and injustices with which our world is now filled.

In this passage of Acts, we are given far more than a glimmer of hope. We begin to see how God is repairing and restoring this earth and his people so that they, too, can enjoy the Edenic bliss experienced by Adam and Eve.

- 1) The needs of widows are addressed frequently in both the Old and New Testament (see, for example, Ex. 22:22, Dt. 10:18, and 1 Tim. 5:3). What is unique to this particular situation in the early church is the problem of the widows from one culture not being as well cared for as the widows from a different culture.
 - How would you characterize or describe the response to this problem? Why do you think this response was pleasing to everyone? (v. 5)
 - What similar situations does the body of Christ need to address today?
- 2) The leaders chosen to address this need were to be, we are told, “full of the Spirit and wisdom.” (v. 3)
 - Why do you think these characteristics were important? Why not men who were “caring” or “good administrators?”
 - Did the men chosen have different abilities or different skill sets or different backgrounds than the apostles? In other words, how did they compare to the apostles?
 - What do you think we should look for in Christian leaders today?
- 3) Over the centuries, Christians have often wrestled with the question of what should be the primary concerns of Christian ministry: Evangelism? Preaching? Deeds of mercy? In this story there is no tension between a devotion to prayer and preaching the Word of God and a desire to meet the physical needs of suffering widows.
 - How can we explain the remarkable unity of the church as it addressed this problem? (see v. 5)
 - What should the church be doing today? Is one kind of ministry more important than another? (If time, see Matthew 25:31-46 and consider it alongside this passage.)



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: October 27, 2019

SPEAKER: Joe/Aaron

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 6:1-7

Pray

MERCIFUL FATHER,

Forgive us when we become weary of well doing. We remember your great compassion, how you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, and you remember that we are dust. But we, Lord, in turn, are prone to roll our eyes at others’ weaknesses and groan when we must take care of those in need. Empower us by your Spirit so that we may respond with Christ-like love, becoming servants like him. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the hurts of others. Show us how we can give a cup of cold water to those who are thirsty and feed those who are hungry. Use us to make your church a place where the love of Christ can be clearly and wonderfully seen in how we care for one another. In the name of our Savior and Shepherd, Jesus. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS
Bible Mission Global