

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Diaconate and Caring for the Church

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 6:1-7**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

This section of scripture is often looked at as the beginning stages of the development of the diaconate, or the founding of the ministry of the deacons. This is a reminder for all of us of the need for mercy - to take care of those who are often overlooked, those who are vulnerable, and those who are ignored. **The diaconate is the church's example of the ministry of mercy.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Proverbs 31:8-9; Psalm 41:1; Jeremiah 22:3; Zechariah 7:9-10; James 1:27; Romans 16:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; 1 Timothy 2:12; Micah 6:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What can cause churches to fail? How have you seen and/or experienced this?
2. Have you seen or experienced prejudice and/or favoritism? If so, what did you do about it? Was it effective?
3. How have you seen or experienced the church acting in mercy?
4. Does the church need deacons to function? Why or why not?
5. Do you see the church growing?
6. How do you live out showing mercy and compassion? If you aren't doing so, how can you live with your eyes open?