

From Pentecost to Problems

“And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring” (Acts 6:1).

Prayer

The church started as a result of a ten day prayer meeting where people were waiting for the power from on high. This power would transform their lives and they would never be the same.

Pentecost

Once Pentecost happened, people were added to the church daily. A great revival was in progress. Pentecost produced people coming into the church.

People

One would think everything was perfect with this group of people who were in one accord; they prayed; fasted; sold their possessions, and had all things in common. Miracles, signs, and wonders were operating in the church. Thousands of people were coming into the church. The people brought....

Problems

Acts 6 opens with revival and church growth happenings but with people problems.

A good pastor needs to understand people. Many people coming to our churches have problems. David’s group in 1 Samuel 22:1-2 were definitely problem people. You will have some of these same types of people in your church. People will walk into your church

hoping you have the answer to their problems. You can transform them into mighty men and women through the help of the Lord. In 2 Samuel 23:8-39 there were 37 of the 400 who were transformed into David’s mighty men.

John Drakeford said, “By people we are broken, and by people we are put together again!” People will hurt and also bless you. The church would not be without people. People do not arrive perfect. The five-fold ministry is designed to make and bring them to perfection (Ephesians 4:11-12).

It is often said, “People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care.” We must show the world we care.

A tribe in East Africa exchange greetings by asking, “Are you well?” The response is, “I am well if you are.”

Kwame Gyekye in his book, *African Cultural Values: An Introduction* suggests, “In African societies human relations are highly valued. Greeting people one meets is an important element in enhancing human relations and in making people feel good about themselves. The greeting is considered a way of acknowledging the other person as a fellow human being.”

As pastors and church leaders it is important to study human nature. In Acts 6 the apostles gave the people the opportunity to choose for themselves deacons in the church.

People put forth their greatest efforts when they are carrying out their ideas. Give your people credit in coming up with solutions to church problems. Do not try to take all the credit. People have the tendency to reject decisions that are made for them even when these decisions are in their best interests.

Human Relations

Give your people a chance to voice their opinion and take ownership of the decisions made. Treat people the way you would like to be treated.

People can be divided into three groups:

- 1. Those who make things happen.
- 2. Those who watch things happen.
- 3. Those who wonder what happened.

We need to train our people to make things happen and be involved in the church.

When faced with the problem in Acts 6, leadership could have been:

- 1. Lazy (Does nothing about the problem).
- 2. Procrastinated (Put off the problem until later).
- 3. Distracted (Look at other situations and side issues).
- 4. Impatient (Be upset and quit).

They solved the problem by using the people who were causing the problem.

Bear Bryant, a famous football coach said, "If anything goes bad, I did it. If anything goes semi-good, then we did it. If anything goes real good, they did it." That attitude is what it takes to get people to be a team, and win.

The Apostles looked at the masses of converts as a result of prayer and Pentecost. They looked at people with problems, but part of the team, and told them to be involved in the decision. Peace prevailed and problems turned into...

Progress

"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied" (Acts 6:7).

Study Questions

1. What did prayer produce in Acts? _____

2. What did Pentecost produce? _____

3. What did people produce? _____

4. What did problems produce? _____

5. Of David's 400 men, how many became mighty men? _____

6. What did Drakeford say about people?

7. What is the purpose of five-fold ministry? _____

8. What is the purpose of greetings in African societies? _____

9. What should pastors and church leaders study in order to be more effective with people?

10. When do people put forth their best effort?

11. When people do not take part in the decision making what usually happens? _____

12. What are three groups of people mentioned in this lesson? _____

13. How did they go about solving the problem in Acts 6? _____

14. What did Bear Bryant say? _____

15. What could the Apostles have done instead of solving the problem? _____

Additional Notes