



MAKING MEMBERS
MISSIONARIES

Acts 2:36–38

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2:36–38

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers... **Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.**



Acts 4:31, 32

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.



Acts 4:31, 32

Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and **brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.**



Acts 6:1–7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, **there arose a complaint** against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, **because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.**



Acts 6:1–7

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, **“It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.”**



Acts 6:1–7

Therefore, brethren, **seek out from among you** seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”**



Acts 6:1–7

And the saying pleased the whole multitude.
And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.



Acts 6:1–7

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.



The model of lay leadership established in Acts 6 was not a new idea. It was actually just the way the Lord had always intended His people to operate.



Exodus 18:13–23



And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people?"



Exodus 18:13–23



Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?” And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God.



Exodus 18:13–23



When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws.” So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, **“The thing that you do is not good.**



Exodus 18:13–23



Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.



Exodus 18:13–23



Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, **and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.**



Exodus 18:13–23



Moreover you shall **select from all the people** able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And **let them judge the people at all times.**



Exodus 18:13–23



Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. **So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.**



Exodus 18:13–23



If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then **you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.**”



Mark 6:35–38

When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.” **But He answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.”**



Mark 6:35–38

Then He commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.



The Lord's training of the disciples in Mark 6 was to prepare them to organize the church in Acts 6.



The organization of Acts 6 made self-sufficient members;



The organization of Acts 6 made self-sufficient members;
the persecution of Acts 8 made self-sacrificing missionaries.



Acts 1:6–8

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”



Acts 8:1, 4

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and **they were all scattered** throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles...** Therefore **those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.**



The persecution that came upon the church in Jerusalem resulted in giving a great impetus to the work of the gospel. Success had attended the ministry of the word in that place, and there was danger that the disciples would linger there too long, unmindful of the Saviour's commission to go to all the world.



Forgetting that **strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service**, they began to think that they had no work so important as that of shielding the church in Jerusalem from the attacks of the enemy. Instead of educating the new converts to carry the gospel to those who had not heard it, they were in danger of taking a course that would lead all to be satisfied with what had been accomplished.



To scatter His representatives abroad, where they could work for others, God permitted persecution to come upon them. Driven from Jerusalem, the believers "went everywhere preaching the word."



Among those to whom the Saviour had given the commission, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19), were many from the humbler walks of life—men and women who had learned to love their Lord and who had determined to follow His example of unselfish service.



To these lowly ones, as well as to the disciples who had been with the Saviour during His earthly ministry, had been given a precious trust. They were to carry to the world the glad tidings of salvation through Christ.





**WHY JESUS WAS ALWAYS
TALKING ABOUT PLANTS**