

Lent Devotion for Sunday, March 26

Acts 6: 1-7

MULTIPLY YOUR GROWTH

Acts 6:1 (NKJV)...*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.*

In this scripture, Luke is speaking to the disciples regarding a complaint lodged against them from a group of non-Jewish believers who felt their widows were slighted from daily provisions. It was not intentional, but because the disciples were focused on spreading the Gospel there were not enough of them to accommodate the additional daily provision for everyone. Therefore, Luke commissioned disciples to select men who were full of faith and the Holy Spirit to perform this duty. Through these chosen men, the number of disciples increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Acts six records the ordination of the first seven deacons and the work of one of them, Stephen.

Growing pains is the term used to describe the deep cramping or aching pain children between the ages of 3 to 12 feet in their legs and is believed to be the result of bone growth. Growth can cause physical as well as emotional pain. We see this in growing families. Often, a younger child experiences emotional distress or anxiety when their parents' attention is suddenly devoted to a "new baby." They feel neglected or may even believe the new baby is favored over them. We also see this in our text. Why does Luke show us the early Church's first Growing pains of internal conflict and church hurt? We see one reason in Acts 6:2. He shows leaders how to manage growth. Luke's solution was to appoint deacons (a.k.a ministry helpers) for the disciples. However, Luke's story also highlights our natural tendency to overlook all the good being done for us because of discontentment.

What good in your life has discontent blinded you from seeing? What is one thing you will do today to support your Church's mission to multiply, helping as many people as possible change their lives so they can change the world?

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us the wisdom to manage success and growth. Help me see opportunities to serve as a way of supporting your growing Kingdom, and please help me to recognize the unique ways others are serving me. In Jesus' Name...Amen.