



奧克蘭華人長老會 AUCKLAND CHINESE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sermon Summary - 18 April 2021

Serving - more than waiting on tables - Acts 6:1-7 (Andrew Cox)

A lifetime of service: Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, 10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021

The problem (1)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

Notice that the early church helped the _____ (1) (see Galatians 2:10-11)

Cultural dynamics: We have people who have grown up in New Zealand and people who were born overseas. There are different cultural values at play.

How do the apostles show good _____ (2) here?

The solution: seven _____ (3) (2-6)

The apostles were looking for well qualified people - spiritual people. "To wait on" is related to the word for deacon = minister or servant. Read the qualifications for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12. Key point: _____ (4) matters!

What do we learn about service from this these verses?

Management is "the art of getting things done through and with _____ (5) in formally organised groups." - Peter Drucker

In what ways do we tend to disempower people?

In what ways can we empower people?

One area is encouragement. A church that is high on praise and encouragement is not a church full of big-headed, egotistical people but one where people feel their contribution _____ (6) and they want to do more.

The result (7)

Verse 7 records how the church continued to grow. There are 6 summary statements in Acts (6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20, 28:30-31). In each of these verses, we read either that the word was spreading or that the church was growing or both. Luke reminds us that Jesus was building his church just as he said he would. Praise God!

A Serving Community

There is a temptation with church to ask: "What's in it for me? A better question is: "How can I _____ (7)?" Can we expand our energy and commitment to include our serving community? Because we need to serve!

Wanted! Big fund-raising dinner in June - inviters, decorators, bakers, event organisers / Offering hospitality to visitors and newer people / Sharing a testimony or _____ (8) in our service / Playing an instrument or doing tech / Design and social media promo / Mentoring a young person / Connecting with table tennis players on Sunday afternoons / New premises: maybe after school club, ESOL, cooking class, budgeting service - you name it!

Questions

1. Describe a time when you served in some capacity. What did you accomplish together? Any negative experiences? What did you learn?
2. Read Acts 6:1-7. What cultural dynamics do you see in our church? In what ways do we (potentially) clash? How can we appreciate one another more?
3. How do the apostles show good leadership here?
4. Read the qualifications for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12. What do you learn?
5. In what ways do we tend to disempower people? In what ways can we empower people?
6. What do you think about the statement: *There is a temptation with church to ask: "What's in it for me? A better question is: "How can I contribute?"* How can we move from being consumers to contributors?
7. Look at the **Wanted!** List above. Could you or someone else you know help with one of these areas? What else comes to mind? Talk to the pastor or a leader about it.

Answers to blanks

(1) poor, (2) leadership, (3) servants, (4) character, (5) people, (6) matters, (7) contribute, (8) story