

God's Method Requires Equipping, Identifying, and Empowering others for Ministry

Acts 6:1-10

Pastor Kelly J. Mahoney

- Space... the final frontier. These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise. Its continuing mission...
- To explore strange new worlds.
- To seek out new life and new civilizations.
- **To boldly go where no man has gone before.**

STAR TREK



1. Jesus' mission and mandate compels us (Acts 1:8).
... and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the
remotest part of the earth."



1. Jesus' mission and mandate compels us (Acts 1:8).
... and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the
remotest part of the earth."



1. Jesus' mission and mandate compels us (Acts 1:8).
... and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the
remotest part of the earth."



1. Jesus' mission and mandate compels us (Acts 1:8).

... and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

*There is **nowhere** on earth
the Lord doesn't desire His
message to be proclaimed.*



2. Jesus' message calls for changed hearts (Acts 2:32-47).
- i. Attested by miracles, signs & wonders that were seen by audience members.
 - ii. Crucified by the hands of men, died, was buried and rose again by God's plan and power.
 - iii. Seated at God's right hand of power.
 - iv. The Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:36-37

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this **Jesus whom you crucified.**" 37 ¶ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart,

2. Jesus' message calls for changed hearts that respond by faith, repentance, and baptism.

Acts 2:37-41

37 ¶ Now when they heard this, **they were pierced to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 20:20-21

... declaring ... and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. God's mission and message bring increasing numbers, a diversity of people, and tangible _____ that all require attention.

Acts 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:47 And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 5:14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number,

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, . . .

3. God's mission and message bring increasing numbers, a diversity of people, and tangible needs that all require attention.

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

3. God's mission and message bring increasing numbers, a diversity of people, and tangible needs that all require attention.

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.

**We can't hold her together
much longer Capt'n!**



4. Increasing the leader's workload would decrease the effectiveness of the overall mission.

Acts 6:2

So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

- What must I do, that if I don't do it, the body of Christ will suffer?
- What should I empower others to do, instead of doing it myself?

4. Increasing the leader's workload would decrease the effectiveness of the overall mission.

Exodus 18:13-22

. . . Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. 14 Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing . . . said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. 18 **You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.** 19 "Now listen . . . select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. 22 "Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, . . . So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.

5. God's method requires that qualified servers be identified (v.3).

Acts 6:3

"Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

6. Devotion to Christ's mission, mandate, message, and method result in **prioritizing** essential ministries

Acts 6:4-5

"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 The statement found approval with the whole congregation;

... devote ... to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

6. Devotion to Christ's mission, mandate, message, and method result in prioritizing essential ministries

6.1 Leadership from a kneeling position (prayer).

6.2 Evangelism (Acts 2-5)

6.3 Discipleship (Acts 5:42)

Acts 5:42

And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus *as the Christ*.

... devote ... to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

6. Devotion to Christ's mission, mandate, message, and method result in prioritizing essential ministries

6.4 Equipping

Ephesians 4:11-12

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ... being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- One team
- One goal
- Each taking their place and playing their part
- With a desire to win!



6.1 Leadership

6.2 Evangelism (Acts 2-5)

6.3 Discipleship (Acts 5:42)

6.4 Equipping (Eph. 4:11-16)

What must I do, that if I don't do it, the "the team" will suffer?

What should I empower others to do, instead of doing it myself?

7. God's method results in empowering servers (v.5-6) which:

7.1. Increases the effectiveness of the mission.

Acts 6:5-7

... and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. 7 ¶ The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

You are Invited to Engage in Biblical Community @ Hope!

Surveys and pens will be passed out.

- Your input communicates who you are to the Leadership team without obligating you to anything at this point.
- Based on your input, you will later be invited to consider serving opportunities that are likely to fit you.

Feel free to visit or get a snack or refreshment when you are done.

You will have 7 minutes starting . . .



00:00

Please place surveys and postcard sign-ups in the basket on the snack table before you leave today.

7. God's method results in empowering servers (v.5-6) which:

7.2. Enables others to be used mightily of God (v.8-10; 7:1-60).

Acts 6:8-10

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. 9 But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. 10 But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

7. God's method results in empowering servers (v.5-6) which:

7.2. Enables others to be used mightily of God (v.8-10; 7:1-60).

Acts 7:59-60

They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Applying God's Word to Life

- 1) Have you responded to Jesus' message through faith, repentance, and baptism?
- 2) Have you filled out "An Invitation to Serve . . ." with a willingness to pray about how the Lord may want to use you on His "team"?
- 3) Would you be willing to sign-up to ATTEND a Fall Community Meal to enjoy an environment for "togetherness," unity, and prayer?