

Recap of 6/20/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 6:1-7):

1. The early church faced one of its greatest tests in Acts 6:1-7, that of grumbling and complaining among the believers. Harmony in the church is crucial to evangelism and growth. Murmuring must not be tolerated, but dealt with after the pattern of Acts. 6:1-7.
2. To deal with this problem, which concerned the daily distribution of food to the Grecian and Hebraic widows, the Apostles suggest appointing seven men to oversee this ministry. They laid out three qualifications, with an emphasis on character, not particular skills: men who were full of the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, with a reputation for integrity.
3. J. Oswald Sanders, in **Spiritual Leadership**, says of the qualification that they be full of the Spirit: -“Spiritual leadership requires Spirit-filled people. Other qualities are important; to be Spirit-filled is indispensable.”
-“A person can have a brilliant mind and possess artful administrative skill. But without spirituality he is incapable of giving truly spiritual leadership.”
-“The Spirit will not delegate authority into secular or carnal hands,...”
4. Of the qualification, full of wisdom, Sanders writes:
-“...wisdom is heavenly discernment....Wisdom involves knowing God and the subtleties of the human heart. More than knowledge, it is the right application of knowledge in moral and spiritual matters.”
5. Seven men were chosen, all bearing Greek names. The Hebraic Jews trusted the responsibility in the hands of the Hellenists. Ultimately their trust was in God, as they placed the church’s unity above their own concerns. The result was that the church grew.
6. How the apostles dealt with murmuring is a model for the church:
 - they took a problem-solving approach rather searching for someone to blame
 - they confronted the problem directly/openly (they didn’t “sweep it under the rug”)
 - they found the right people (spiritual, wise, and with a reputation for integrity)
 - they trusted them with the work (in this case the Hebraic Jews trusted the Grecian Jews putting it into God’s hands
 - they were willing to change to meet the situation