The Seed of God's Word

Unit B4 - Lesson 3: Deacons are Chosen to Serve

Lesson Prayer

Abiding God, you always do what you say you will do. We trust in your promises for your people and pray that you would form us into people of integrity whose words and actions would also match. Let us be trustworthy servants who share the love and mercy of Christ with the world. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

First Lesson: Acts 6:1-15

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a
complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their
widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said,
"It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to
serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven
men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will
appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to
the ministry of the word."

5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose
Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and
Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus,
a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they
prayed and laid their hands on them.

7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the
disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the
priests became obedient to the faith.

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and
signs among the people. 9 Then some of those who belonged to the
synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians,
and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose
up and disputed with Stephen. 10 But they could not withstand the
wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him
speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12 And they
stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came
upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, 13 and
they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak
words against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him say
that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the
customs that Moses delivered to us." 15 And gazing at him, all who sat
in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 3:8-13

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not
addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must
hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them
also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove
themselves blameless.

11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-
minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons each be the husband of
one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For
those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves
and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

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