



So . . . You Want To Be A Deacon?

[Acts 6:1-7, Philippians 1:1, I Timothy 3:8-9]

LIVE: Established Pattern of Leadership [Acts 6:1-7]

LOVE: Paul's Blessing - Grace & Peace [Phil. 1:1-2]

LEAD: Expectations and Excellence [ITim. 3:8-13]

[1] **Expectations** - male deacons [8-9, 12]

[2] **Observation** - the vetting process is a non-negotiable for all deacons [10]

[3] **Expectations** - female deacons [11]

[4] **Excellence** - call to resist mediocrity [13]
[a] great reputation [standing - influence]
[b] great confidence [faith in Christ Jesus]

Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 6:1-7. How would you summarize the conflict here? What's your reaction to the Twelve in these verses? Why? [LCSB]
2. What principles from the passage in Acts 6 give us insight into the calling of deacons in the church?
3. Read I Timothy 3:10. What do you think it means for deacons to be "tested first" before serving? [LCSB]
4. Read Matthew 20:20-28. Servant leadership is the common calling for both elders and deacons in the local church. How does Jesus explain the role of a prominent leader in His kingdom?
5. Pray for God to provide excellent servant leaders throughout the church as we grow in our relationship with Jesus and pursue our calling to reach the world for Him together.

Acts 6:1-7 [Most likely written between A.D. 60-62] 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 [diakonein] 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.

Philippians 1:1-2 [sent between A.D. 60-62] Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Timothy 3:8-13 [sent between A.D. 62-64] Deacons [diakonos] 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 [diakoneitōsan] if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. [NASB] ¹² Let deacons [diakonoi] each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons [diakonēsantes] gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 20:20-28 ²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. ²¹ And He said to her, "What do you desire?" She *said to Him, "Say that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine shall sit, one at Your right, and one at Your left." ²² But Jesus replied, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They *said to Him, "We are able." ²³ He *said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit at My right and at My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."

²⁴ And after hearing this, the other ten disciples became indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them, and those in high position exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever desires to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."