Facing Crises Without Losing the Mission: Acts 6:1-7

Acts 6:1-7 · Giovanne Gabardo · August 9, 2026

The overlooked widows, the apostles who pass the ball, the seven who start by serving tables

THE CENTRAL IDEA

"Crises are inevitable; losing the mission is not."

A fair complaint threatened to divide a growing church. The apostles didn't work harder or ignore the problem: they discerned w hat must never stop happening and raised up new servants, full of the Spirit. The crisis didn't stop the church: it multiplied its se rvants, and the word kept growing.

THE MESSAGE IN 3 MOVEMENTS

01 A crisis is not always God's absence.

The problem wasn't coldness: it was growth. Like a family or a city t hat grows, the church has to learn to care for people better. The g rumbling echoes the wilderness, and the question is whether we t rust God to provide through the community or feed distrust.

02 Not every urgency defines priority.

As Jethro taught Moses and as Jesus did when he left Capernaum, the apostles protect what is essential by delegating the rest. Like the player who learns to be one of eleven, they choose to pass the ball.

03 In the Kingdom there is no ordinary service.

To organize food, the requirements are character and the Spirit. And those who served tables became Stephen and Philip: faithfulness in small things prepares for great ones. Serving never starts with us: it starts with Christ, who came to serve.

READING THE TEXT · ACTS 6:1-7

Acts 6:1 · The grumbling

As the number of disciples grows, the Greek-speaking Jews complain against the Hebrew-speaking ones: their widows are being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. It is the first crisis born inside the church.

Acts 6:2-4 · What cannot stop

The Twelve gather the disciples: it would not be right to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Choose seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, and we will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:5-7 · The seven and the growth

The proposal pleases everyone. They choose Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, all Greek names. The apostles pray and lay hands on them, and the word of God spreads; even many priests become obedient to the faith.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

To open: tell about a day when you worked a lot, got home exhausted and felt you had only put out fires. What got left out?

1. The crisis in Acts 6 was born of growth. In which area of your life (family, work, faith) has "growth" brought new tensions? How have you been responding to them?
2. "Urgency changes every day; mission doesn't." What is the one thing that must never stop happening in your week? And w hich urgencies have been crowding it out?
3. The apostles called both serving tables and preaching "diakonia". Have you ever treated some service as "less spiritual"? Where might God be asking you to be faithful in a service no one sees?
4. The church chose the seven from the group that felt overlooked. Who might be present but forgotten in our community? What concrete step can the group take to include them?

KEY PASSAGES

xodus 18:17-23, "What you are doing is not good... select capable men." Jethro teaches Moses to delegate so he doesn't wear out himself or the p eople: the same pattern as Acts 6.

Mark 1:37-38, "Everyone is looking for you!" "Let us go somewhere else... that is why I have come." Jesus distinguishes the urgency of the moment from the mission.

Mark 10:45, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life." Every diakonia of the church is born of Christ's s ervice to us.

TO CLOSE

A step for this week. Find someone at church whose name you don't know yet: sit next to them, ask their name and their story. A nd if you notice a group that feels overlooked, or you feel that w ay, talk to the leadership.

Prayer. Thank God that the church is sustained by Christ, not by our organization. Ask for discernment to separate urgency from mission and a heart willing to serve where no one is watching.

Watch the message again: point your phone camera here.