

ACTS 6

NLET

HOW THE DISCIPLES QUASHED A MURMURING BEFORE IT BECAME A DIVISIVE PROBLEM

1 Now, in the days – *that is*, those days, when the Disciples were multiplying, a murmuring of the Hellenists¹ came about against the Hebrews, because the widows *that were* theirs were being overlooked in connection with the Service, namely, the day by day Service.

2 Now, the Twelve, who summoned the multitude of the Disciples, were saying, “It is not acceptable that, leaving the Word of God behind, we serve tables.

3 So then,² Brothers, inspect for yourselves seven men from among yourselves who are bearing witness that they are full of a spirit³ – *that is*, a holy⁴ *spirit* – and wisdom, whom we shall set in order over the need – *namely*, this one.

4 Now, we, *for our part*, shall persist diligently in the Prayer and the Service of the Word.”

5 And, the word was pleasing in the opinion of the all the multitude. And, they picked out for themselves:

- Stephan, a man full of faith and a spirit⁵ – *namely*, a holy *spirit* – and
- Philip, and
- Prochorus, and
- Nicanor, and
- Timon, and
- Parmenas, and
- Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

6 whom they stood in front of the Apostles. And, ones who had prayed, laid the Hands upon them.

HOW THE WORD AND THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLES GREW

7 And, the Word of the God grew. And, the number of the Disciples in Jerusalem was increasing exceedingly. And, a great throng of the Priests were hearkening to the Faith.

HOW OPPOSITION AROSE AGAINST STEPHAN

8 Now, Stephan, full of faith⁶ and of power was doing marvels and great signs among the People.

9 Now, certain men from the synagogue – namely, the one being called ‘Libertinon’⁷ – consisting of both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, both ones from Cilicia and Asia – arose, disputing with Stephan. 10 And, they were not strong enough to stand against the wisdom and the Spirit by Whom he was speaking.

11 Then, they surreptitiously produced men, ones who were saying, “We have lastingly heard him speaking blasphemous utterances against Moses and the God!” 12 And, they stirred up the People, and the Elders, and the Scribes. And, having taken a stand against *him*, they seized him and carried him off. And, they brought *him* in to the Sanhedrin.

13 And, they made witnesses – false ones – stand, saying, “The man – *namely*, this one – does not cease speaking utterances – *that is*, blasphemous ones⁸ – against the Place of the Holy One and the Law. 14 For, we lastingly heard him saying that Jesus the Natzerene – *namely*, this One – shall destroy the Place – yes, this one! And, He shall alter the Customs which Moses transmitted to us!”

15 And, having looked intently toward him, all together⁹ – *that is*, the ones who were sitting in the Sanhedrin – saw the face *that was* his just as a face of an angel.

¹ ‘Hellenists’ – ones who used the Greek language or Greek Jews

² 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘So then,’ here instead of ‘Now,’.

³ ‘spirit’ – this Greek noun is not accompanied by a definite article. It could refer to a person’s spirit or to the Holy Spirit.

⁴ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include ‘holy’ here.

⁵ ‘spirit’ – refer to the previous footnote.

⁶ 78.8% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘faith’ here instead of ‘grace’.

⁷ ‘Libertinon’ – a transliteration of the Greek word which means ‘Freedmen’.

⁸ 93% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘speaking utterances – *that is* blasphemous ones’ here instead ‘speaking utterances’.

⁹ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘all together’ here instead of ‘all’.