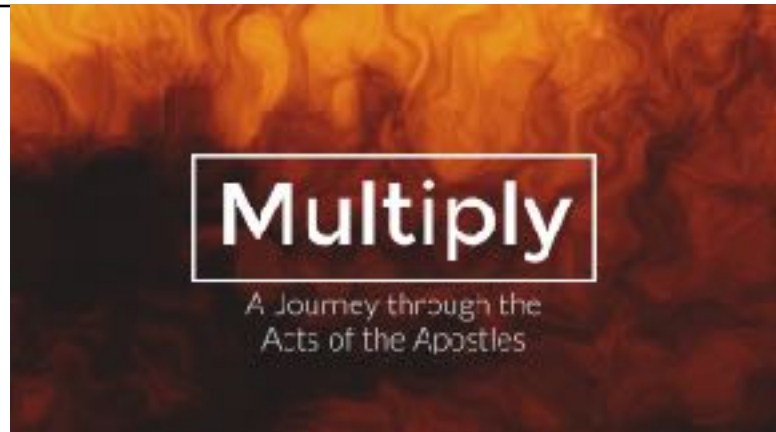


Graphics and Audio Notes

- There **will** be a sermon starter video.
- There **will** be notes and / or scripture to show on screen during the sermon.
- [Include other notes about graphics or media during the service here]



Text highlighted in this way have a slide prepared to be on screen.

Text highlighted in this way are a reminder for Andrew during delivery.

Text highlighted in this way are direction for Andrew during delivery.

Key Questions

What is this sermon about?

This sermon is about...

Why is this sermon important?

It is important because...

What is the good news?

The good news is...

What are the next action steps?

You are invited to...

What is the context of this sermon?

[Place, congregation, series information, time, current events, etc.]

What are other key takeaways?

For social media

- [text here]

Metadata

Topics

- Change Lives
- Develop Leaders
- Give
- Grow
- Make Disciples
- Serve
- Share
- Share Christ
- Transformation of the World
- Worship

Sermon Books of the Bible

- [text here]
- [text here]

Tags

sermon, worship, church, Methodist, UnitedMethodist, UnitedMethodistChurch, FirstUnitedMethodistChurch, ElDorado, Kansas, GreatPlains, AnnualConference, GreatPlainsAnnualConference

Sermon Audio

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship

Introduction **5**

Acts 6:1-7, CEB

Response to Scripture

Sermon Starter Video

Factions that Divide Us **6**

Sports

Socioeconomic Class

Thrive!

Health Care

Church

Transition

Peter and John — The Jerusalem Council **6**

Excursus: Can you imagine what this is like for the religious leaders?

Jerusalem Council - How did you do this?

Peter - We are examined for healing this man? Let me tell you about Jesus!

Jerusalem Council - Stop Talking about Jesus

Believers Pray

Invitation to Reflection

Sharing Among Believers — Pretenders of Sharing **7**

Sharing Among Believers

There were no need persons among them

Pretenders of Sharing - Acts 5

Ananias and Sapphira sell property

Ananias lies to God

Sapphira lies to God

Tell the truth

The Jerusalem Council Persecutors — Gamaliel **8**

Persecutors

Gamaliel

4th Sunday of Easter (White or Gold)

May 7, 2017

Multiply - A Journey through the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 6:1-7

Organization for Service

Preaching Target Word Count: 2,037

First United Methodist Church of El Dorado

Organized for Service

9

Greek Speaking — Aramaic Speaking

Selection of Seven to Serve - Acts 6

Conclusion

10

Good News

Call to Action

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Introduction

Acts 6:1-7, CEB

¹About that time, while the number of disciples continued to increase, a complaint arose. Greek-speaking disciples accused the Aramaic-speaking disciples because their widows were being overlooked in the daily food service. ²The Twelve called a meeting of all the disciples and said, "It isn't right for us to set aside proclamation of God's word in order to serve tables. ³Brothers and sisters, carefully choose seven well-respected men from among you. They must be well-respected and endowed by the Spirit with exceptional wisdom. We will put them in charge of this concern. ⁴As for us, we will devote ourselves to prayer and the service of proclaiming the word." ⁵This proposal pleased the entire community. They selected Stephen, a man endowed by the Holy Spirit with exceptional faith, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶The community presented these seven to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷God's word continued to grow. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased significantly. Even a large group of priests embraced the faith.

Response to Scripture

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.



Sermon Starter Video

Play sermon starter video.

Factions that Divide Us

Sports

University of Kansas
Kansas State University
Wichita State University

Socioeconomic Class

There are divisions that exist in our country, community, and congregation

Thrive!

Several of you are connected with an initiative called Thrive! Butler which is seeking to eradicate poverty in Butler county. I am grateful for the work and am glad that we are part of this effort. I have learned that there are unwritten rules for those in poverty, those in the middle class, and those who are wealthy.

When we begin to understand these rules, we can begin to understand others in a deeper and more profound way.

Health Care

Most people will agree that access to health care is important.
Many people will disagree about the best way to provide access to health care.
The approach can divide us.

Church

How we interpret the Bible
Worship
Activities
Focus
This is part of the reason that we are doing the values work

Transition

We find a struggle between factions in the life of the early church, as well.

Peter and John — The Jerusalem Council

Peter and John have healed a man who was unable to walk.

The religious leaders have them imprisoned. While there is a new high priest, Caiaphas, the high priest when Jesus is put to death, is part of the group that

Excursus: Can you imagine what this is like for the religious leaders?

Jerusalem Council - How did you do this?

“By what power or in what name did you do this?”¹

Peter - We are examined for healing this man? Let me tell you about Jesus!

“Leaders of the people and elders, are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved.”²

Jerusalem Council - Stop Talking about Jesus

“The council was caught by surprise by the confidence with which Peter and John spoke. After all, they understood that these apostles were uneducated and inexperienced. They also recognized that they had been followers of Jesus.”³

“When they called Peter and John back, they demanded that they stop all speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus.”⁴

Believers Pray

In response to being placed on trial, they prayed.

“After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking God’s word with confidence.”⁵

Invitation to Reflection

What do you do when things don’t go how you hope they might go?

What is your response?

Sharing Among Believers — Pretenders of Sharing

Sharing Among Believers

³²The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common.

¹ Acts 4:7, CEB.

² Acts 4:8-12, CEB.

³ Acts 4:13, CEB.

⁴ Acts 4:18, CEB.

⁵ Acts 4:31, CEB.

33The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. 34There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, 35and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

There were no need persons among them

Pretenders of Sharing - Acts 5

Ananias and Sapphira sell property

"However, a man named Ananias, along with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. With his wife's knowledge, he withheld some of the proceeds from the sale. He brought the rest and placed it in the care and under the authority of the apostles.

Ananias lies to God

Peter asked, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has influenced you to lie to the Holy Spirit by withholding some of the proceeds from the sale of your land? Wasn't that property yours to keep? After you sold it, wasn't the money yours to do with whatever you wanted? What made you think of such a thing? You haven't lied to other people but to God!" When Ananias heard these words, he dropped dead. Everyone who heard this conversation was terrified. Some young men stood up, wrapped up his body, carried him out, and buried him.

Sapphira lies to God

About three hours later, his wife entered, but she didn't know what had happened to her husband. Peter asked her, "Tell me, did you and your husband receive this price for the field?" She responded, "Yes, that's the amount." He replied, "How could you scheme with each other to challenge the Lord's Spirit? Look! The feet of those who buried your husband are at the door. They will carry you out too." At that very moment, she dropped dead at his feet. When the young men entered and found her dead, they carried her out and buried her with her husband.

Trepidation and dread seized the whole church and all who heard what had happened."

Tell the truth

The Jerusalem Council Persecutors — Gamaliel

Persecutors

17The high priest, together with his allies, the Sadducees, was overcome with jealousy. 18They seized the apostles and made a public show of putting them in prison. 19An angel from the Lord opened the prison doors during the night and led them out. The angel told them, 20"Go, take your place in the temple, and tell the people

everything about this new life." 21Early in the morning, they went into the temple as they had been told and began to teach.

29Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than humans!

30The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. 31God has exalted Jesus to his right side as leader and savior so that he could enable Israel to change its heart and life and to find forgiveness for sins. 32We are witnesses of such things, as is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

33When the council members heard this, they became furious and wanted to kill the apostles.

Gamaliel

34One council member, a Pharisee and teacher of the Law named Gamaliel, well-respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be taken outside for a few moments. 35He said, "Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you intend to do to these people. 36Some time ago, Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and some four hundred men joined him. After he was killed, all of his followers scattered, and nothing came of that. 37Afterward, at the time of the census, Judas the Galilean appeared and got some people to follow him in a revolt. He was killed too, and all his followers scattered far and wide. 38Here's my recommendation in this case: Distance yourselves from these men. Let them go! If their plan or activity is of human origin, it will end in ruin. 39If it originates with God, you won't be able to stop them. Instead, you would actually find yourselves fighting God!" The council was convinced by his reasoning.

Organized for Service

Greek Speaking — Aramaic Speaking

1About that time, while the number of disciples continued to increase, a complaint arose. Greek-speaking disciples accused the Aramaic-speaking disciples because their widows were being overlooked in the daily food service

Selection of Seven to Serve - Acts 6

3Brothers and sisters, carefully choose seven well-respected men from among you. They must be well-respected and endowed by the Spirit with exceptional wisdom. We will put them in charge of this concern. 4As for us, we will devote ourselves to prayer and the service of proclaiming the word."

Conclusion

Good News

Call to Action

Work across factions
Organize for service

Invitation

Closing Prayer

Jesus, I am sorry for all the times in my life when I mess up.

And if anything comes to mind, ask God's forgiveness.

Forgive me of my sin and all that I know is wrong.
Thank you that you died on the cross and rose for me.
I trust you with my life.
Help me receive your forgiveness.
Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to follow you.
In your holy name, Amen.