
Witness Unhindered:
“Distraction”
 Acts 6: 1-7

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“If the churches came to understand that the greatest threat to faith today is not hedonism but distraction, perhaps they might begin to appeal anew to a frazzled digital generation. Christian leaders seem to think that they need more distraction to counter the distraction. Their services have degenerated into emotional spasms, their spaces drowned with light and noise and locked shut throughout the day when their darkness and silence might actually draw those whose minds and souls have grown web-weary.”

- Andrew Sullivan

“I believe in the power of distraction.” - Woody Allen

“A personal gospel without a social gospel is like a soul without a body. A social gospel without a personal gospel is like a body without a soul. One is a ghost. The other is a corpse.”

- Bryan Chapell

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- Acts 6 marks a new strategy for dismantling and hindering the progress of the church and the ministry of the Word. Previous attacks have been based in persecution from the outside and corruption from the inside. Now it is the distraction from God’s purpose and design.
 - Which of these three strategies have you experienced as a believer, as a person within the church?
 - Which is most difficult for you personally and for Hope as a church?
 - How have you weathered the attack? How has God helped?
 - What is the “power of distraction” for you personally?
- Acts 6 depicts the ministry of the Word and the ministry of deeds supporting and empowering each other.
 - Why would it have been wrong for the apostles to neglect the ministry of the Word?
 - Why would it have been wrong for the “deacons” to neglect the ministry of deeds?
 - How does Chapell’s quotation above help us navigate the balance and tension of these essential avenues of ministry?
 - How do the images of the ghost and the corpse help us in that regard?
- The passage ends with the ministry of the Gospel - word and deed - growing and thriving.
 - How do you desire to grow in each aspect - word and deed?
 - How can we realize such growth at Hope?
 - Why did the unique care for the Word and for people catch the attention of the priests?