

How to Reach Rock Bottom

7/13/14

Acts 5:40 And they took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them to speak no more in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them.

⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing *in number*, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic *Jews* against the *native* Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving *of food*.

² And the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.

³ "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

⁴ "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

⁵ And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

⁶ And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them.

Ten observations exemplified in this passage:

1. A no excuse attitude of serving while suffering (5:40-6:1)
2. The care of widows (6:1)
3. Imperfection (6:1)
4. Leaders lead (6:2)
5. The organizing of leaders and teams so that no one is overlooked (6:3)
6. The practice of male leadership (6:3)
7. Requirements concerning reputation, spirituality and wisdom (6:3)
8. The freeing of leaders so that prayer and the ministry of the word is not neglected (6:4)
9. Congregational involvement in leadership identification (6:5)
10. Leadership involvement in leadership commissioning (6:6)

Corresponding to the big two observations in Acts 6 (#s 5&8) is 1 Timothy 3

Three passages important to the context of 1 Timothy 3

1. **1 Timothy 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, *who is* our hope;

² to Timothy, *my* true child in *the* faith: Grace, mercy *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

⁴ nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith.

⁵ But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

2. 1 Timothy 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service;

¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

¹⁶ And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

3. 1 Timothy 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

⁹ Likewise, *I want* women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments;

¹⁰ but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness.

¹¹ Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

¹² But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.

¹⁴ And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.

¹⁵ But *women* shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.

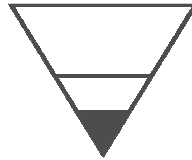
1 Timothy 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires *to do*.

² An overseer, then, must be

- above reproach,
- the husband of one wife,
- temperate,
- prudent,
- respectable,
- hospitable,
- able to teach,
- ³not addicted to wine
- or pugnacious,
- but gentle,
- uncontentious,
- free from the love of money.
- ⁴*He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?);

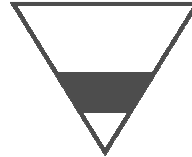
- ⁶*and* not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
- ⁷ And he must have a good reputation with those outside *the church*, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.



Note: *poimenes*, translated *shepherds* or *pastors*, *presbuteroi*, translated *elders* or *presbyters* and *episkopoi*, translated *overseers* or *bishops* are used interchangeably for the same position.

Example: 1 Peter 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the elders *presbuteroi* among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
² shepherd *poimenes* the flock of God among you, exercising oversight *episkopoi* not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;
³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Timothy 3:8 Deacons likewise *must be*



- men of dignity,
- not double-tongued,
- or addicted to much wine
- or fond of sordid gain,
- ⁹*but* holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
- ¹⁰And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.
- ¹¹Women *must* likewise *be*
dignified,
not malicious gossips,
but temperate,
faithful in all things.
- ¹²Let deacons be husbands of *only* one wife,
- *and* good managers of *their* children and their own households.

¹³ For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long;

¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

Observation: The qualifications are developed, unexceptional and are about character.

Why we need deacons and why every man needs to prayerfully consider becoming one:

1. So that we obey God's design (1 Timothy 3:8-15)
2. So that no one is overlooked (Acts 6)
3. So that prayer and the ministry of the word is not neglected (Acts 6)