

52 Weeks of Power

WEEK 24

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In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry

of the word.” This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

- Acts 6:1-8

It’s easy to underestimate the power of starting small. Stephen didn’t start by preaching to large crowds. He started by serving tables. The early church chose him to help resolve a practical issue: making sure widows were being fed. It wasn’t flashy, but it was necessary. And Stephen said yes. That small yes wasn’t small to God. Stephen was described as “full of faith and the Holy Spirit,” not because of a platform, but because of his heart posture.

We live in a world that often celebrates the spotlight and overlooks the behind-the-scenes. But Jesus came to shake things up when he said, “The greatest among you will be your servant” (Matthew 23:11). He Himself didn’t come to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45). And He calls us to do the same.

Maybe you’re on the Serve Team and helping the church park cars on a Sunday. Maybe your “yes” feels small, but every “yes” to serve opens the door for someone else’s miracle. More parking spots means more traffic, but it also means more people are coming. That’s not just a problem to fix, it’s a blessing to steward. And it takes people like Stephen, people like you, to see the opportunity in the inconvenience. God is still using ordinary acts of service to accomplish extraordinary things. If you knew your “yes” would be the answer to someone else’s prayer, would you still see it as small?

REFLECT:

1. Question 1: Where in your life have you underestimated the significance of your “yes” to serve?
2. Question 2: How can you respond with faith and purpose the next time you’re faced with a challenge or opportunity?

PRAYER:

Lord, thank You for the example of Stephen. Help me to serve with joy, even when the task seems small. Use my ordinary “yes” to accomplish extraordinary things in the lives of others. In Jesus’ name, amen.