

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 6 1-7



O Lord, I am your servant, your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

Psalm 116:14

Praising:

Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.

Reading:

Acts 6:1-7
Seven are chosen to serve

Amidst the new 'Christian Jews' of Jerusalem there was a degree of factionalism. On one side were the Jerusalem and Palestinian Jews who spoke Aramaic. On the other were the Jews from foreign countries who spoke Greek. In the way that locals often treat new arrivals, the former tended to look down on the latter and this contempt has skewed the daily distribution of alms. Basically, the widows on the Greek-speaking side are being overlooked. The apostles wisely decide not to get

caught up in the row and seven men are duly selected as a means of solving the problem. The apostles will devote themselves to prayer and the preaching of the Gospel; the deacons will be responsible for the practical day to day running of things. Their charge is not so much to speak as to serve.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray Lord for fairness and openness in all our dealings with one another as your Church

- that we would see past differences of outlook and tradition, style and personality
- that every stranger would be welcomed as we would welcome Christ himself
- that feeding the physically and spiritually hungry would always be our priority

Father: show me when to speak and show me when to serve, that I may for ever follow the example of your Son and in all things preach and live your love. Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 21 April 2016