





FAMOUS FIRSTS

*Discovering Who We Are
by Learning Where We Began
Understanding Where We are Going
by Knowing Where We Started*

We forget

The early church did not have some road map on how this was supposed to work

What they had was a belief in Christ

What they had was a few simple instructions

What they had was a desire to spread the gospel



**But let's not forget it is
being led by people
and these people
are sort of making it
up as they
go along**



Starting in Jerusalem



The First Ministry of the Church



What is a Ministry?

"Ministry" is from the Greek word diakoneo, meaning "to serve"

Defined: a person or group through which something is accomplished

Ministry can be one person

Ministry can be a group

Ministry must accomplish something



**Early Ministry in
the Church was
Organic**



Reactive and funneled through the Apostles



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.

Acts 6:1



Organized Ministry

The church is growing

There is now a daily distribution of food

The target of this ministry
would have been widows

There was a dispute over how
the ministry was being
administered



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.



What Changed?

As the church grew the apostles now began to realize they could not do everything

For the first time they decided to delegate

They allowed the people to choose



**This allowed the
people to be vested
in what was
happening**



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



More Growth

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.



Application for Us

Ministry is important

Ministry can not happen
at the expense of Mission

Ministries will come in
all shapes and sizes

No one can do everything

For the church to grow people
have to be willing to minister



**No Believer
should be with
out a ministry
(John 13:12-17)**



**What are you
doing for Christ?**

