

Sermon Title: How do we React when things aren't Fair?

I think we need to come up with a new title for this sermon series: It is "Acts: Movement, Momentum, and Multiply." I think it should be "The Book of Acts, when God's Word makes you really uncomfortable."

How many of you have ever said something like "That's not fair!"

- Write your definition of fair -
-

So the tough question for us all this morning is "How do I react when things aren't going fairly?"

Acts 6:1-15

Story #1, The disciples react to a problem

1. The problem arises because of all of the growth that has taken place.
 - a. When growth happens, and leaders try to do everything themselves, things get missed.
2. This could have been a huge problem, but instead of letting the problem grow the disciples acted quickly and decisively.
3. They couldn't do everything, so they decided to focus on what God had called them to do which was the ministry of the Word of God.
4. Some amazing things happened-
 - a. No job is better or more important than another.
 - b. A miracle occurred.

What can we learn from this story?

- Don't look at a problem as only a bad thing, but as an opportunity.
- The job you are called to do, is what you need to be doing.
- We need to be people who are full of the Spirit and of wisdom.
 - a. How do we do that? Through prayer and Bible reading.

Story #2, Stephen reacts to being treated unfairly

1. The story starts out with a success story, Stephen who was one of the chosen in the first story did great signs and wonders and was full of the Spirit and of Power.
2. People tried to speak out against Stephen, but when they couldn't beat him in a debate, they cheated.
3. They brought Stephen before the Sanhedrin, and he couldn't do much because he was a Greek speaking Jew not from Jerusalem.
 - a. But he could do one thing, he controlled his reaction.

What can we learn from this story?

- Life is not always fair, even if we follow God correctly.
- Make sure that we are not doing to anyone else, what the Jews did to Stephen.
 - Heidelberg Catechism 112 "'That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing.'"

Challenges:

1. Look at problems as opportunities this week.
2. Make sure that you know what God has called you to do in this season of your life and make sure that you are doing that well.
3. When things happen to you that aren't fair, let us react full of the Spirit of God and not full of sin.

I hope that God's word today has shown us all that even if life is unfair, that doesn't mean that God doesn't love us or that he has abandoned us, it just means that we have an opportunity to show how much God loves us to others.

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Story #1, The disciples react to a problem

5. The problem arises because of all of the growth that has taken place.
 - a. When growth happens, and leaders try to do everything themselves, things get _____.
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7. They couldn't do everything, so they decided to focus on what God had called them to do which was the ministry of the _____.
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What can we learn from this story?

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- The job you are called to do, is what you need to be doing.
- We need to be people who are full of the Spirit and of wisdom.
 - a. How do we do that? Through _____

Story #2, Stephen reacts to being treated unfairly

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Challenges:

4. Look at _____ as opportunities this week.
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