

THE LOFTY STANDARDS FOR DEACONS

Lesson Scripture: Acts 6:1-6, 8-15

Lesson Aims: To understand why and how the first deacons were chosen, to recognize and appreciate the standards for selection of leaders (deacons), and to be ready to serve having the right criteria.

Background: In last week's lesson, a number of places were mentioned where many Jews in Jerusalem for Passover and Pentecost came from. After hearing Peter preach, many converted carried the message back to their homes. The number of converts continued to grow. For the most part, the early converts came from the Jewish faith (Judaism). Those Jews living outside of Judah (Judea or Palestine) spoke the languages (also last week) of that area. However, Jews that lived in Judah felt that they were just a little bit better than the others. You see, from their perspective, they didn't have any outside influence, therefore they were the traditional ones! That mentality continued to thrive, even though some of them converted. The lesson opens sometime after the Day of Pentecost.

Lesson: An early practice in the Christian Church (the new community) is caring for the needy (widows). This caring includes their physical and spiritual needs. Remember that a woman not connected to a man was in dire straits. Apparently, while the Apostles are out preaching the Word, those left in

the neighborhoods are expected to make sure that their needs are met. Rapid growth is good (blessings) but it brings unforeseen problems (stress). Chapter 6 opens with the first internal challenge - discrimination. This conflict can disrupt the ministry, cause people to fall away, and/or ignite other areas of discord. This is another challenge facing the first century community. The Apostles hear the grumbling and call all of the disciples (followers) together. They present the issue: they must preach and teach the Word while others should "oversee the benevolence" (Echoes Adult Teacher Commentary). The word serve in verse two comes from the Greek "diakonein" which translates to deacon. The first priority of the Apostles is the Word. The Apostles don't take for granted any area of ministry. Should we? They are told to choose seven men among them who are full of the Holy Spirit, displaying honesty and wisdom. Notice how they take a potentially explosive situation and handle it with loving care.

Leaders, do you follow this pattern? The Apostles' proposal pleases them (both groups) and also gives the disciples some responsibility. The followers choose seven. All of the names are Greek. The first two, Stephen and Philip will enlarge their ministries by the aid of the Spirit. Both become preachers (a little later). When all seven are presented to the Apostles they laid hands on the seven, signifying the transfer of the benevolent ministry to them. Stephen's ministry expands beginning in verse eight. As he ministers, God gives him more grace and power. He is doing wonders and miracles.



Evidently, Stephen goes to the Synagogue of the Freedmen (former slaves) proclaiming teachings that undermined the Mosaic Law. Some of the men there begin to disagree with his teachings to no avail. They conspire with the elders and teachers of the law to get rid of him. Upon seizing Stephen, he is taken before the Sanhedrin where false witnesses are brought before him. As they lis-

ten to the testimony, they observe that Stephen's face is like that of an angel. Having the face of an angel implies that "God's presence gives him courage and confidence in the face of death" (Echoes). Read chapter 7 to find out what happens.

Application: Doing any task for God is an honor and a privilege. It should be

approached with humility. When called to lead (we're all called) whether we hold an office or not, do we make a self check? The criteria for leadership and fellowship in this fold (community) is spirit-filled, faithful and fearless. God will use you far beyond your imagination! Believe me, I know this to be factual!! As the community grows, you will be asked to serve. Do you have the goods?

WOTILC
Word of Truth Int'l Life Center
3806 Community Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

November 6-8

RESTORING THE FAMILY CONFERENCE 2008

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

HOST
PASTORS PAM & RON PHILLIPS

EXECUTIVE HOST
ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHERYL JEFFRIES

SPECIAL GUEST
PASTOR RICK & LADY ANGELA MCLEOD
TOTAL RESTORATION, THOMASVILLE, NC

WOTILC MINISTERIAL TEAM
MINISTER MICHELLE BOONE
MINISTER LATASHIA COLE
MINISTER DENISE SCOTT
MINISTER RAYCHEL SMALL
MINISTER BRIAN WOMBLE
MINISTER VERA WONSLEY
MINISTER LEROY WONSLEY

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Workshops
Thursday-Friday
6:00-6:45

Worship Service
7:30 PM

Saturday Workshops
9:00, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30 am

Break

Evening Worship

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: LATASHIA COLE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (336)788-0448

Galilee will hold its Fall Revival

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church will observe its annual Fall Revival, Oct. 14 - 16, with services each night at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Stephen J. Thurston will be the guest evangelist, while the Community Praise Team and Renaissance will be the musical guest. A lecture series, "Engaging the Enemy," will take place before services at 6:30 p.m. with guest lecturers Dr. Tobias Lagrone, Pastor Herbert Miller and Pastor Tejado Hanchell. Separate sessions for youth will also be held each evening at 6:30.



Dr. Thurston

Thurston is pastor of Chicago's New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church. On Easter Sunday in 1971, he preached his initial sermon after having acknowledged his calling by God. On Easter Sunday in 1974, he was ordained and appointed as assistant pastor of New

Covenant. On Easter Sunday in 1975, he was appointed copastor. Upon the death of his father in 1979, he became Pastor of the New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church.

In 2003, he was elected as the 14th President of the National Baptist Convention of America. Prior to being elected president, Rev. Thurston served as 3rd Vice President of the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc.; President of the Illinois National Baptist State Convention; Chairman of Finance for the Chicago Baptist Institute; and a member of the Broadcast Ministers Alliance of Chicago and Vicinity.

Dr. Nathan E. Scovens is the pastor of Galilee, which is located at 575 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

For additional information, contact the Church Administrative Office at 336-724-3857.

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fray on Oct. 18 from 4 - 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Eat in or take out. Proceeds will benefit First Christian Church. The church is at 2320 Country Club Road.

Starting Oct. 19

Holy Day of Atonement
An event celebrating the 13th Annual Commemoration of The Million Man March (The Holy Day of Atonement 2008) will be held Sunday, Oct. 19 at Muhammad Mosque #92, 1320 Glenwood Ave., in Greensboro. Doors will open at 2 p.m., and the event will start at 3 p.m. sharp. The keynote address will be delivered via satellite from Chicago by The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. The event is free and open to the public.

Epps at First Baptist Church
The Rev. Dr. William S. Epps, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Los Angeles, will be the guest preacher during revival services (Oct. 19-21) at First Baptist Church East. Epps will preach at the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 19, and at the 7 p.m. service on Oct. 20 and Oct. 21.

The church is located at 700 North Highland Avenue.

Oct. 26

Men's, Women's Day
United Progressive Baptist Church will have Men's and Women's Day Celebration on Oct. 26 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Sunday morning the women will be in charge of services and Rev. Annie Duck will deliver the morning message. The men are in charge of the 3 p.m. service and Rev. Leonard Lewis will be the guest speaker.

Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.

Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
M.Y.P.U. 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Services
Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

4111 Whitfield Drive
Phone: 336-767-3700
Fax: 336-767-7006

Bishop R.L. Wise, Sr.
D.D.; S.T.D. - Pastor

Week of 10/08/08 thru 10/14/08

Value Pack 93% Lean Ground Beef **\$2.79** lb.
Without MVP Card Regular Retail

Boneless Chicken Breast Fillets and Tenders **\$1.99** lb.
Without MVP Card \$4.99

Ragu Pasta Sauce **3/\$5**
Without MVP Card \$15.89

Seedless Red Grapes **\$1.29** lb.
Without MVP Card \$1.99

Food Lion Peel & Eat Cooked Shrimp **BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE**
Without MVP Card \$9.49 Each

Smithfield Roast Beef **\$5.99** lb.
Without MVP Card \$8.29

Maxwell House Coffee **\$6.99**
Without MVP Card \$10.45

Brawny Paper Towels **\$6.99**
Without MVP Card \$8.86 - \$8.99

Alpo Dog Food **BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE**
Limit 2 Free

Campbell's Noodle Soup **2/\$1**
Without MVP Card 2/\$1.42

Food Lion Premium Ice Cream **BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE**
Without MVP Card \$4.29 Each

Nilla Wafers **BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE**
Without MVP Card \$3.99 Each

Food Lion Brand Potato Chips **BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE**
Without MVP Card \$2.99 Each

FREE Turkey Giveaway

Oct. 1st - Nov. 25th

- Shop 6 of 8 weeks
- Present your Free Turkey Giveaway Card, personal MVP Card and spend \$45 per visit
- Collect 6 different weekly tickets
- Redeem your 6 tickets for a \$20 Food Lion Coupon

See official rules at store office for details.

Oct. 1st thru Nov. 25th

- Shop 6 of 8 weeks
- Use this card and your personal MVP Card
- Spend \$45 per visit
- Collect 6 different weekly tickets
- Redeem your 6 tickets for a \$20 Food Lion Coupon

See official rules at store office for details. Redeem before 12/31/08.

Good neighbors. Great prices.