

"A 3'RD THREAT AGAINST THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM"

ACTS 6:1-4

I. AN INTERNAL CRISIS AROSE WHICH THREATENED THE SUPERNATURAL UNITY OF THIS CHURCH (6:1-2)

- A. Its Nature: Murmuring
- B. Its Cause: Neglected Ministry
 - 1. It Appeared As Though *Hebrew* Widows Were Being Favored Over The *Hellenized* Widows (6:1)
 - 2. The Shear Numbers Were Overwhelming The Apostles And Essentially Preventing Them From Fulfilling Their Primary Purpose (6:2)

II. SPECIFIC STEPS WERE TAKEN BY THE APOSTLES TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM (6:3-4)

- A. They Command The People To Divide Up Ministry Responsibilities
 - 1. Up Until This Point, The Apostles Had Been Doing It All
 - 2. That Which Would Now Be Divided Up, Would Be A Ministry, Just As The Giving Out Of The Word Is A Ministry
- B. They Stipulated The Qualifications For The *Seven Men* Who Would Essentially Relieve The Apostles In This "Hands On" Area (6:3)
 - 1. Sterling Integrity
 - 2. Spirit Filled
 - 3. Skilled Insights Into Practical Matters
- C. They Emphasized Their Steadfast Determination Concerning Their Own Calling (6:4)
 - 1. Today's Ministerial Training Is Actually A Prostitution Of Biblical Mandates
 - 2. Prayer & The Word Were Their Primary Areas Of Ministry