

TSF 2020

SHOFAR SWAKOPMUND SERMON SERIES

serving

Activating people to serve passionately in the kingdom

why me?

PART 3

Karl Holz

“If we could make disciples by preaching to people, the job would have been done long time ago”

Greg Ogren

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A woman said to her pastor following worship one Sunday, apparently in response to his challenge to be a disciple, “I just want to be a Christian, I don’t want to be a disciple. I like my life the way it is. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, and I will be with him when I die. Why do I have to be a disciple?”

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Acts 6:1-10 NLT

Seven Men Chosen to Serve

6 But as the believers[a] rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

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2 So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. 3 And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. 4 Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.” 5 Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following: Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy

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Spirit), Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas of Antioch (an earlier convert to the Jewish faith). 6 These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. 7 So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

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Stephen Is Arrested

8 Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.

9 But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. 10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.

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The false, unbiblical distinction that a person can be a Christian without being a disciple is confronted with the gospel that Jesus proclaimed, which leads directly to discipleship.

Can someone be a Christian without being a disciple?

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Or can we just use Jesus to get into heaven when we die but not live for him during our earthly days?

That whole concept is foreign to the New Testament.

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Sermon quick outline:

Acts 6:1-10

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Point 1: An issue arose:

Point 2: Plan of Action-solve/address the issue

Point 3: Select respected men for this responsibility

Point 4: What qualities should these men have?

Point 5: Chosen and Commissioned to serve

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Stephen died with two prayers on his lips:

First: Acts 7:59-60 (ESV)

59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

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Recalls Jesus dying words from the cross Luke 23:46

Luke 23:46 (ESV) 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last



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Second:

“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

Recalls Jesus earlier prayer for the forgiveness of those responsible for his death Luke 23:34

Luke 23:34 (ESV) 34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

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