



Synopsis

A snapshot of the chapter

As the church grew in numbers, problems arose. Some were external. The Jewish opponents tried to stop the movement by persecuting the church. Some other problems arose from within. The personal sin of Ananias and Sapphira was settled quickly but brought fear upon all the church. Here, a complaint arose because some felt their widows in need were being neglected. How the apostles dealt with this problem is exemplary. They chose seven men who appear to have been Hellenists (the group from whom the complaint had been lodged) to judiciously provide for the widows. One of these men was Stephen. Certain Jews rose up against him and accused him of blasphemy and brought him to the Council.

Observation—What do you see?

Important Person(s):

Main Event(s):

Study Questions:

1. *Who were complaining and what was the issue involved in the complaint?*
2. *What were the qualifications of the seven men chosen to deal with the complaint?*
3. *In what ways was the solution to the complaint a good example?*
4. *What corrupt methods did the Jews from the Synagogue of Freedmen use against Stephen?*
5. *What charges did they bring against Stephen before the Council?*

Questions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.