

# THE MERCY OF PRESBYTERIANISM

*Acts 6:1-7*

I. Deacons *supervise* the church's *mercy* ministry.

II. Deacons *support* the church's *word* ministry.

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What was the complaint that arose in the Jerusalem church? Was it urgent? Was it important? Why, or why not?
2. Why was it wrong for the apostles to continue serving tables? What would they neglect if they continued overseeing the church's mercy ministry?
3. How did the apostles solve this urgent and important need? What does it teach us about the necessity of delegation?
4. What qualifications did the apostles set forth for the first deacons? Why are these three qualities so important for any leader in the church?
5. What is the relationship between the ministry of deacons and the ministry of elders? How do deacons support the work of elders?
6. How do both offices together represent the shepherd-care of Christ toward His needy sheep?

## QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. What made the temptation in Acts 6 the most subtle the church had faced up to that point?
2. Why is delegation so important? Why is it so hard?
3. Do I tend to undervalue deacons? How did this sermon challenge my thinking about the spirituality and vital importance of this sacred office?