

July 10–16

Acts 6–9

“What Wilt Thou Have Me to Do?”



Seven to Address Temporal Needs

Acts 6:1-6

How was the issue of meeting the temporal needs of the church addressed?

Russell M. Nelson

“The Church in New Testament times also had a binding obligation to care for the poor....

“Few, if any, of the Lord’s instructions are stated more often, or given greater emphasis, than the commandment to care for the poor and the needy. Our dispensation is no exception.” (CR, April 1986)

Howard W. Hunter

"In December 1978, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve made a similar determination that it was no longer advisable for the Twelve to occupy their time in the details of administration of the many Church departments. They delegated seven men, designated as the presidents of the First Quorum of the Seventy, to give supervision to these details so that the Twelve could devote their full energies to the overall direction of the work, and, as directed by the Doctrine and Covenants, 'To build up the church, and regulate all the affairs of the same in all nations.'" ("All Are Alike unto God", BYU Devotional, Feb 4, 1979)

The Stoning of Stephen

Acts 7:51-60

What did Stephen say that caused the leaders to be “cut to the heart”?

What do we learn from Stephen’s vision and his actions?

Spencer W. Kimball

“It is significant to read the words and the testimony of Stephen, a holy martyr, who gave his life for his faith.

“Stephen ‘said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.’

“Stephen was a martyr and will inherit eternal life. His testimony reveals that Christ was not dead, but was still living, and was in an exalted, glorified condition with his Father.” (CR, April 1969)

Joseph Smith

"Peter and Stephen testify that they saw the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. Any person that had seen the heavens opened knows that there are three personages in the heavens who hold the keys of power, and one presides over all." (TPJS, pg. 312)

George Q. Cannon

“They treated [Stephen] most cruelly for his belief. He had declared to them the Gospel; but they stoned him to death. Before he died he said—and it's the spirit which every man of God, who comprehends the purposes of God, and the plan of salvation will cherish and always give utterance to under all circumstances —‘Father, forgive them; they know not what they do’ (Luke 23:34).... They did not know what they were doing. They did it ignorantly. This was proved by the fact that the young man [Saul] at whose feet lay the clothes of those who committed this bloody deed, afterwards became a flaming light in the Church and Kingdom of God.” (JD, 26:77)

Philip – One of the Seven

Acts 8:5-8

Philip – One of the Seven

Acts 8:9-13

What did Simon lead the people of Samaria to believe about him?

As a result, what did the people think of Simon?

What did Simon do that made the people think he had great power from God?

Philip – One of the Seven

Acts 8:14-24

Why do you think Simon was willing to pay to be able to give the gift of the Holy Ghost?

Orson Pratt

“[Simon] came to the Apostle Peter and offering money to him, said, ‘Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay my hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.’ He was evidently convinced that there was a power made manifest on that occasion, and as he had been a sorcerer, and had deluded and deceived the people in former times, and had evidently come into the Church with a corrupt heart, he no doubt wished to obtain this increased power to aid him in his future operations.” (JD, 16:284)

James E. Faust

“This greatest of all powers, the priesthood power, is not accessed the way power is used in the world. It cannot be bought or sold.... Worldly power often is employed ruthlessly. However, priesthood power is invoked only through those principles of righteousness by which the priesthood is governed” (CR, April 1997)

Philip – One of the Seven

Acts 8:26-31

What can we learn from the experience of the Ethiopian striving to understand Isaiah?

Ulisses Soares

"The question asked by this Ethiopian man is a reminder of the divine mandate we all have to seek to learn and to teach one another the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, in the context of learning and teaching the gospel, we are sometimes like the Ethiopian—we need the help of a faithful and inspired teacher; and we are sometimes like Philip—we need to teach and strengthen others in their conversion." (CR, April, 2019)

Philip – One of the Seven

Acts 8:32-35

What can we learn from Philip's ability and willingness to teach this passage that refers to Christ?

Thomas S. Monson

“The deep yearning of countless numbers is expressed in the plea of one who spoke to Philip of old: ‘How can I [find my way], except some man should guide me?’

“Brethren of the priesthood, the world is in need of your help. There are feet to steady, hands to grasp, minds to encourage, hearts to inspire, and souls to save. The harvest truly is great. Let there be no mistake about it; the missionary opportunity of a lifetime is yours. The blessings of eternity await you. Yours is the privilege to be not spectators but participants on the stage of priesthood service.” (CR, April 1995)

Philip – One of the Seven

Acts 8:36-38

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 7:58

And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Acts 8:1,3

[1] And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

[3] As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:1-6

Why do you think someone who was committing such evil against the Church of Christ would receive a visitation from Christ himself?

Howard W. Hunter

"Some have said it was the long journey from Jerusalem to Damascus which gave him time to think and contemplate during the days of travel upon the recent events of the persecution. Paul had been present at the stoning of Stephen and had seen him die. He heard him ask in his last words that those who had dragged him from the Sanhedrin and stoned him in defiance of the law might be forgiven for their acts. This must have made a lasting impression on the mind of Paul. He had personally gone from house to house and brought men and women before the tribunals which condemned them to prison or imposed the sentence of death... Could it be that these things commenced to weigh heavily upon his conscience?" (CR, Oct. 1964)

Ezra Taft Benson

“A man can ask no more important question in his life than that which Paul asked: “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” A man can take no greater action than to pursue a course that will bring to him the answer to that question and then to carry out that answer.” (CR, Oct. 1972)

Acts 26:16-18

[16] But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

[17] Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

[18] To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:10-15

What authority had Saul received from the Jewish leaders?

But what had the Lord chosen Saul to do?

Robert L. Millet

"It is given to but few to wield a more powerful influence over Christian history than to Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor who became a prophet, the Pharisee who became the apostle to the Gentiles. The life and teachings of the Apostle Paul stand as bright reminders of the power of Christ to transform the souls of men and women, to remake the human heart, and to refocus one's misdirected zeal into the way of the Master...."

"[Paul] taught with a power, a persuasion, and a holy zeal known only to those who, like Alma and the sons of Mosiah, have gone from darkness to light and whose whole soul yearns to lead others to that same light."

(Selected Writings of Robert L. Millet: Gospel Scholars Series, pg. 69)

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:19-23

Henry D. Moyle

“Neither need our conversion be as miraculous as was Paul's. Nonetheless each person's conversion is bound to be peculiarly personal. Every investigator seeking the truth in his own way can obtain the testimony of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ. Finally, each real conversion, no matter how wrought, brings to all the same testimony of the divine mission of our Lord and Savior. When we receive this testimony, we can all proclaim as is written of Paul, ‘... straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.’” (CR, Oct. 1962)

Next Week:

July 17–23

Acts 10–15

“The Word of God Grew and Multiplied”

