



How God
TRANSFORMED
the Seven

Introduction:

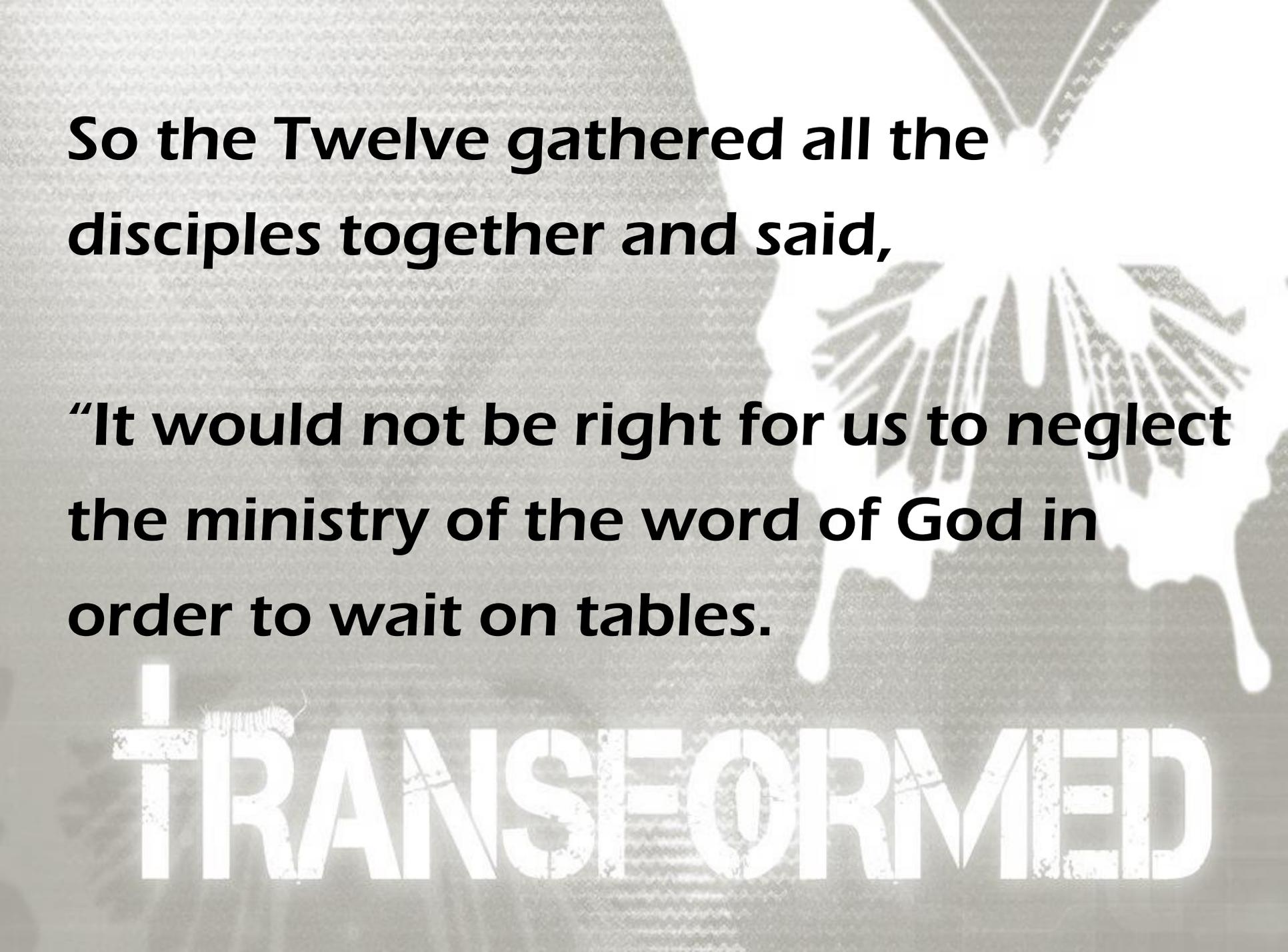
Satan wanted to derail the great work of God that was taking place in Jerusalem, but what began with division ended in multiplication!

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Text: Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

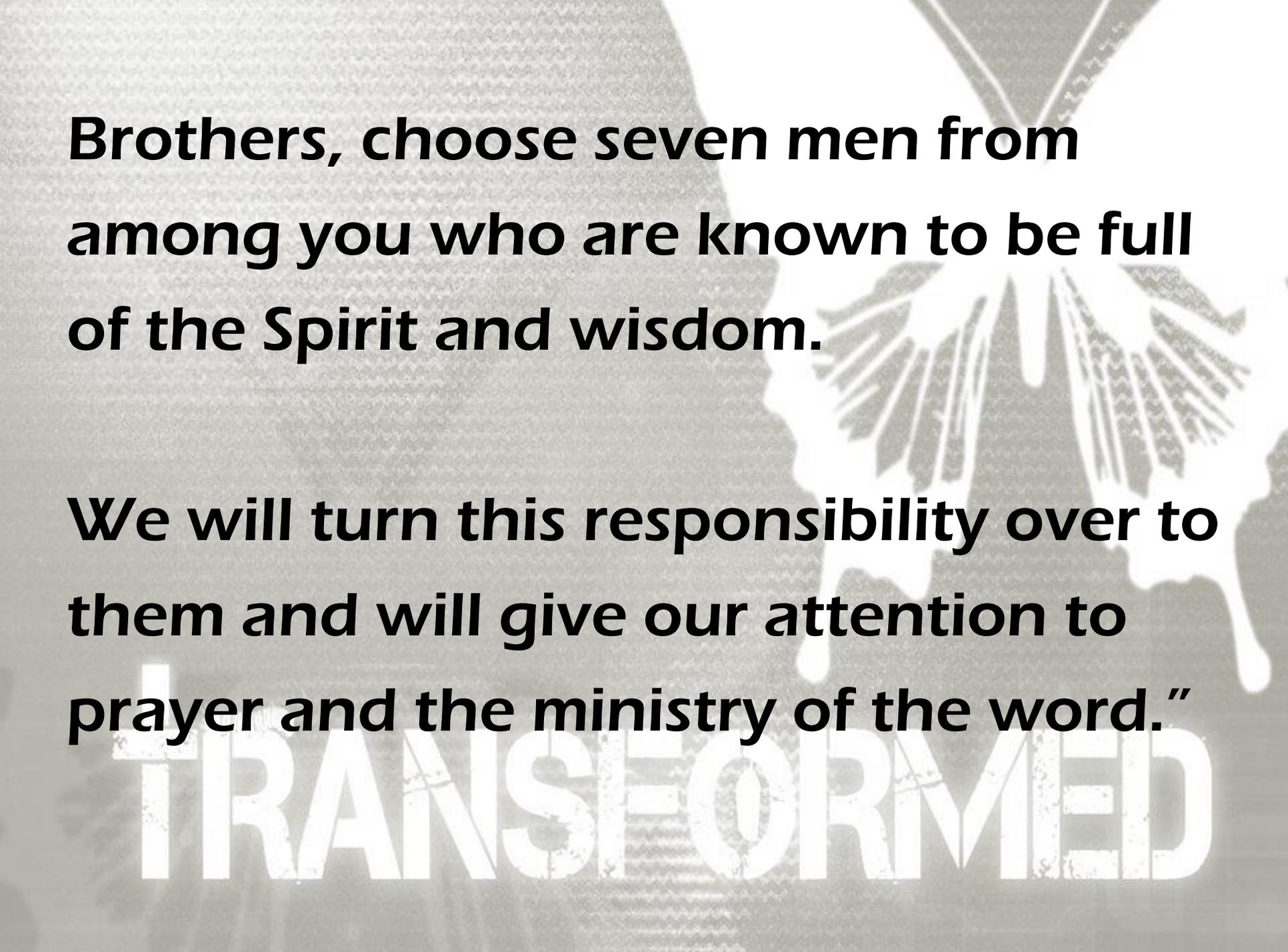
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So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said,

“It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

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The background features a grayscale image of several hands reaching upwards to hold a book. The word "TRANSFORMED" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the bottom of the image, partially overlapping the hands and the book.

Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.

We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

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This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

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They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:1-7

Whenever people begin to
DIVIDE things, problems
seem to begin.

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This was true:

Even among **BELIEVERS** .

Even of **WIDOWS** .

Even when the people

RESPONSIBLE were not only

believers, but were the very

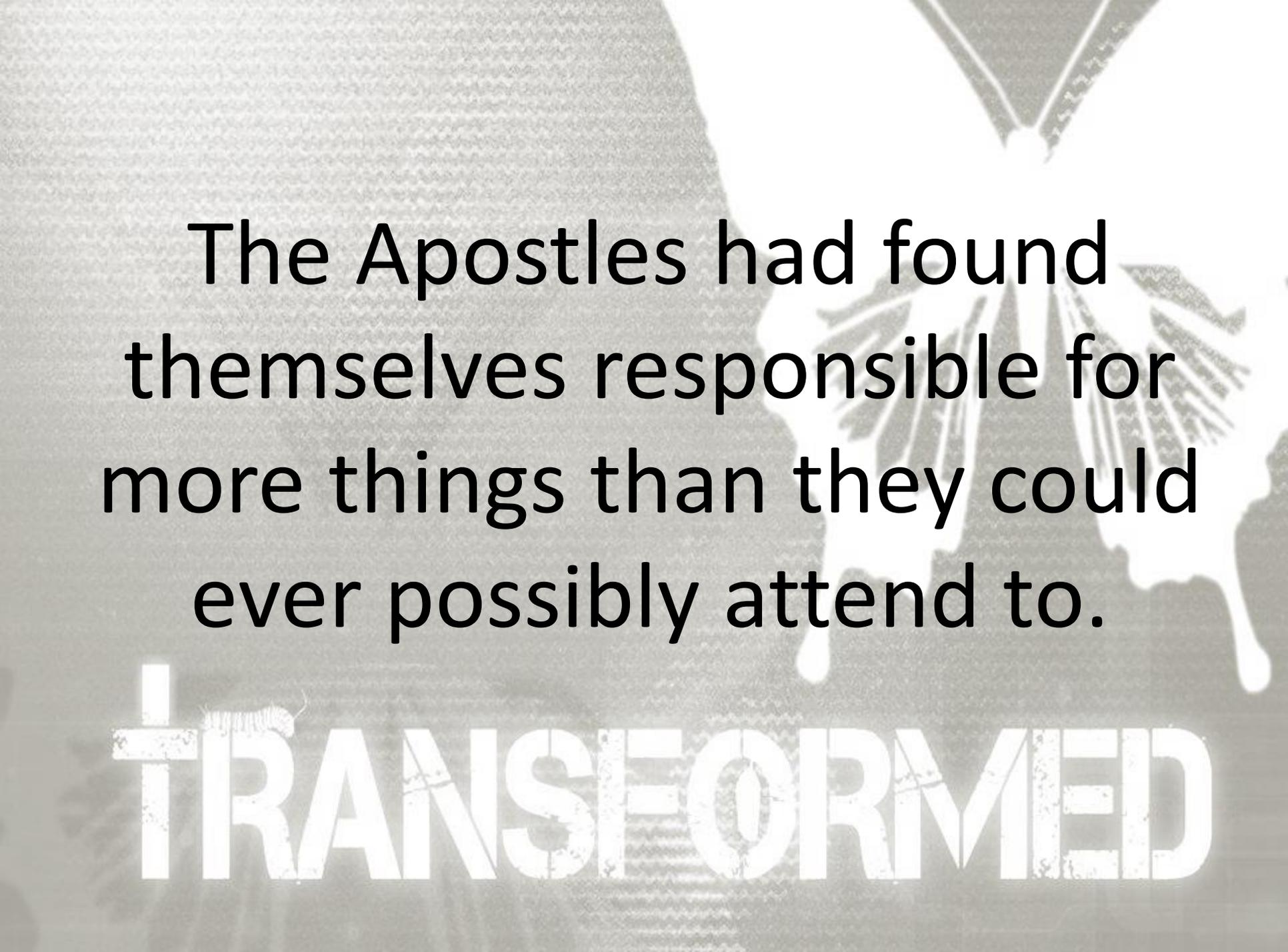
Apostles of **JESUS CHRIST** !

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When the Holy Spirit arrived in the
Upper Room:

The **PRAYERS** of the disciples
were transformed into
POWER.

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The Apostles had found themselves responsible for more things than they could ever possibly attend to.

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In God's Church, when too **FEW**
try to do too **MUCH**, bad things
begin to happen.

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The Church in Jerusalem arrived at a crossroad. It had to choose between:

CONTENTION and **PEACE**

— the leadership could have simply ignored the issue and hoped it would eventually work itself out.

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The Church in Jerusalem arrived at a crossroad. It had to choose between:

DIVERSITY and **EXCLUSION**

— the Church could have simply divided into two churches, one Grecian and the other Hebraic.

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The Church in Jerusalem arrived at a crossroad. It had to choose between:

ACTIVISM and **APATHY**

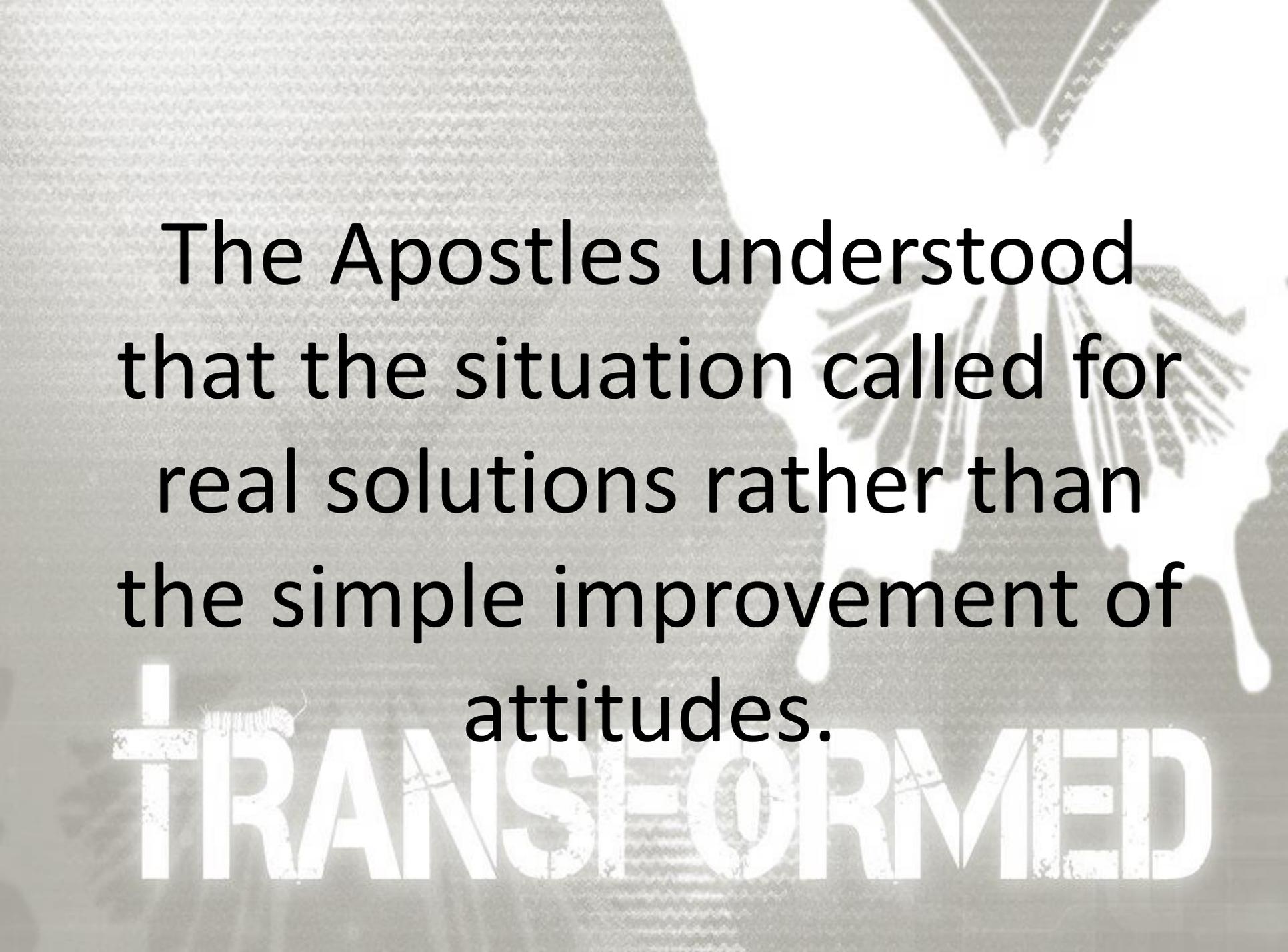
— the Church could have simply gotten out of the business of caring for widows

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SATAN intended for this issue
to drive a **WEDGE** between the
Grecian and Hebraic Jews.

Whenever the Church is
DIVIDED Satan becomes the
most powerful force in an area!

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The Apostles understood
that the situation called for
real solutions rather than
the simple improvement of
attitudes.

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Profound, lasting effects came from this single decision.

In **MULTIPLYING** the number of **WORKERS** in the harvest field, God:

- Extended the **REACH** of the Church.

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Profound, lasting effects came from this single decision.

In **MULTIPLYING** the number of **WORKERS** in the harvest field,

God:

- Increased the **DEPTH** of the

Church

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Transformed the lives of the
LAY LEADERS who were
selected by the people through
offering to them

OPPORTUNITY and

OWNERSHIP in the Great

Commission!

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Conclusion:

God answered the prayers of the disciples to call workers into the harvest field not through increased VISION, but through allowing PROBLEMS to arise!

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