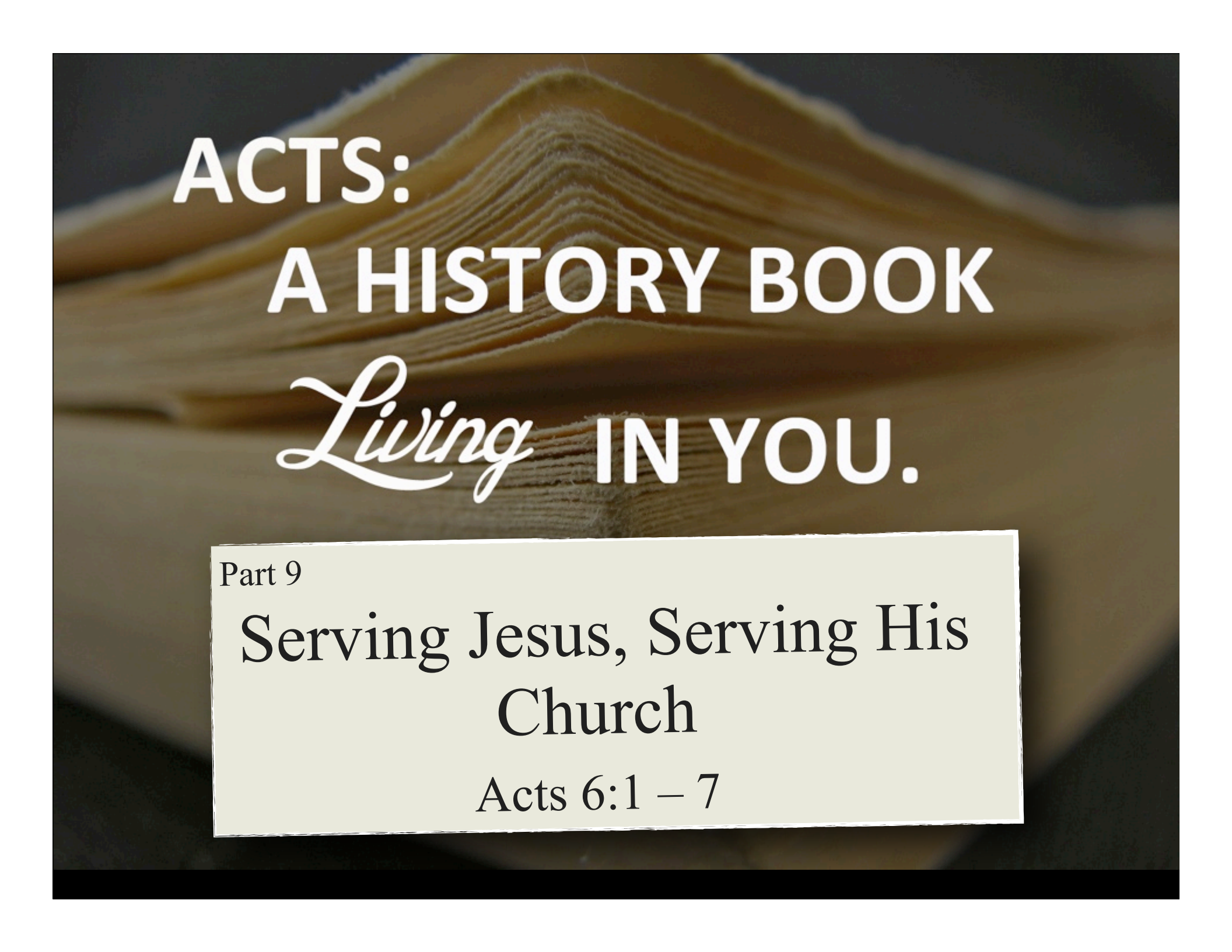


Don't worry,
I've done this a
million times

What's the worst
that can happen?

Yes, I know
what I'm doing.





ACTS:
A HISTORY BOOK
Living **IN YOU.**

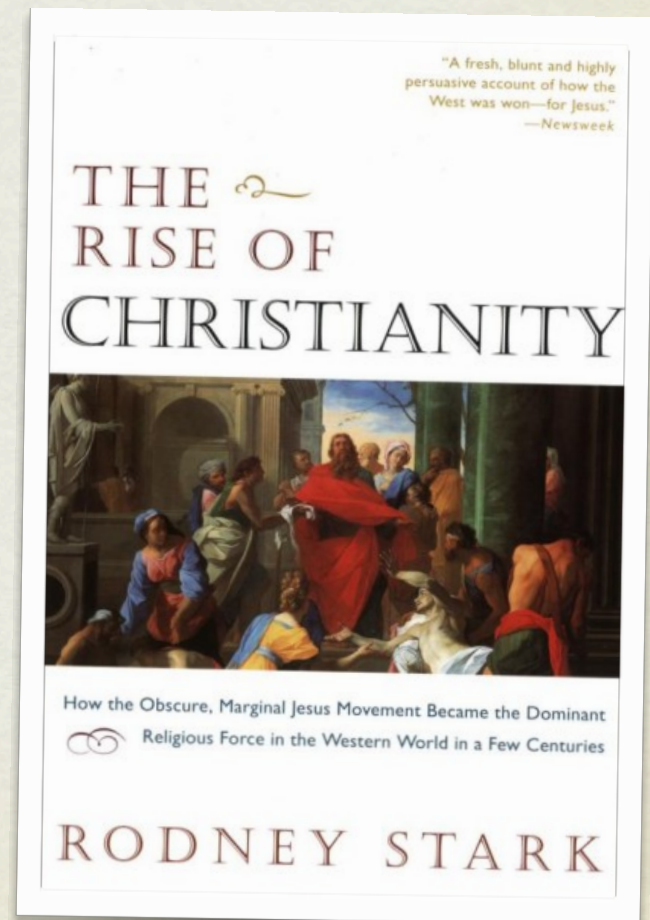
Part 9

**Serving Jesus, Serving His
Church**

Acts 6:1 – 7

Several modern writers have warned against analyzing the rise of Christianity as though it were inevitable . . . Since we know that indeed the tiny and obscure Jesus Movement managed, over the course of several centuries, to dominate Western civilization, our historical perceptions suffer from overconfidence . . . In fact, the rise of Christianity was long and perilous. There were many crisis points when different outcomes could easily have followed.

Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*, p. 93



WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT IN THE CHURCH?

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

(Revelation 7:9, NIV)

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT IN THE CHURCH?

There is no such thing as a perfect church
... a church without conflict
... perfect organizations
... or perfect families



If it weren't for
dysfunctional
families we'd have
no families at all.



WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT IN THE CHURCH?

I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it.

(Matthew 16:18, NIV)

THREE PRIORITIES

1

the ministry of
the Word and
prayer (v.4)

...seven men of good repute full of the Spirit and of wisdom...



Parmenas Nicolas Philip Stephen Timon Nicanor Procorus

THREE PRIORITIES

2

address the
issue by
appointing 7
Grecian
Christians

...seven men of good repute full of the Spirit and of wisdom...



Parmentas Nicolas Philip Stephen Timon Nicanor Procorus

THREE PRIORITIES

3

insure that the
widows were
properly cared for

...seven men of good repute full of the Spirit and of wisdom...



Parmenas Nicolas Philip Stephen Timon Nicanor Procorus

THREE PRIORITIES

3

diakonos

serve

diakonia = ministry, service

diakoneo = to be a servant

...seven men of good repute full of the Spirit and of wisdom...



Parmenas Nicolas Philip Stephen Timon Nicanor Procorus

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of **service** . . .

THREE PRIORITIES

3

diakonos

serve

diakonia = ministry, service

diakoneo = to be a servant

...seven men of good repute full of the Spirit and of wisdom...



Parmenas Nicolas Philip Stephen Timon Nicanor Procorus

... so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

(Ephesians 4:11 - 13 NIV)

THREE PRIORITIES

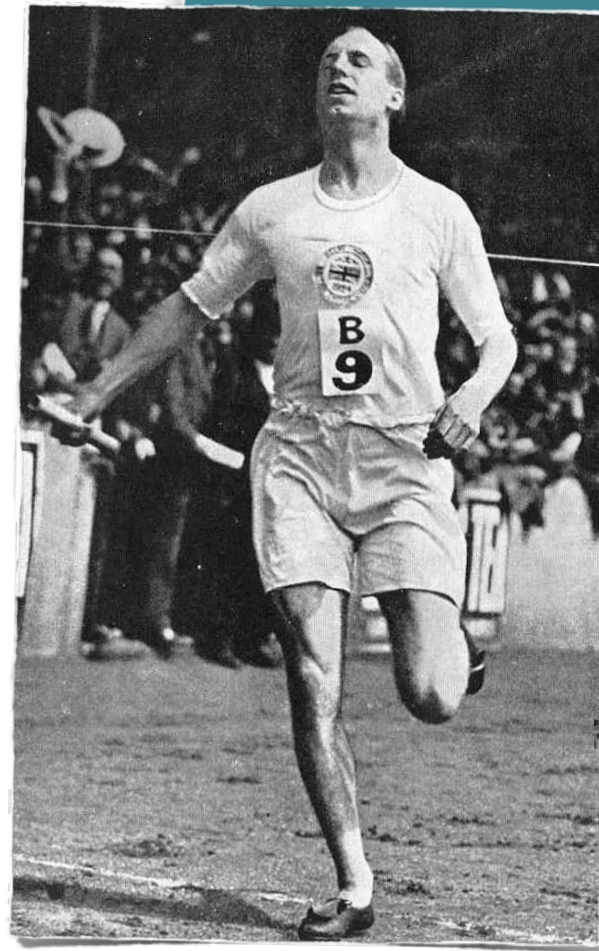
3

serve

...seven men of good repute full of the Spirit and of wisdom...



Parmenas Nicolas Philip Stephen Timon Nicanor Procoras

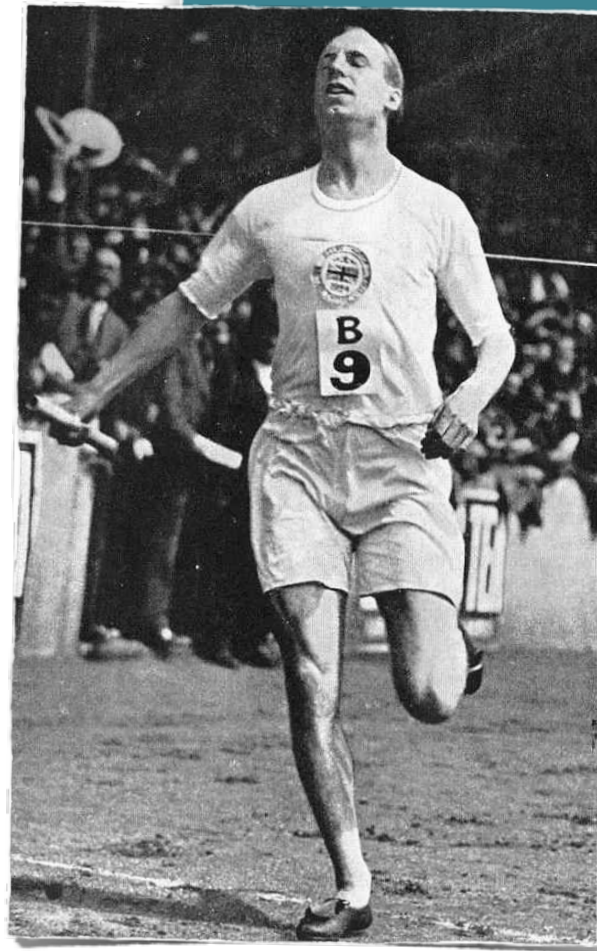


THREE PRIORITIES

3

serve

“God made me for a purpose . . . but he also made me fast . . . and when I run I feel his pleasure.”



THREE PRIORITIES

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

¹⁵ Instead, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as ***each part does its work.***

(Ephesians 4:14 - 16 NIV)

SERVE JESUS, SERVE HIS CHURCH

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 6:7, NIV)

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. (John 13:34 & 35, NLT)

TWO TAKE-AWAYS

1 We will only serve the way we should serve if we have a deep appreciation for having been served by God.

Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.

(John 13:34, NLT)

¹³ You call me “Teacher” and “Lord,” and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

(John 13:13 - 15, NIV)

TWO TAKE-AWAYS

1 We will only serve the way we should serve if we have a deep appreciation for having been served by God.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

(Mark 10:45, NIV)

TWO TAKE-AWAYS

2

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly . . .
as each part did its work

SERVE JESUS, SERVE HIS CHURCH

