

إختبار سبعة خدام للكنيسة

¹ وَفِي تِلْكَ الْأَيَّامِ إِذْ تَكَثَّرَ التَّلَامِيذُ حَدَثَ تَدَمُّرٌ مِنَ الْيُونَانِيِّينَ عَلَى الْعِبْرَانِيِّينَ أَنَّ أَرَامِلَهُمْ كُنَّ يُعْقَلُ عَنْهُمْ فِي الْخِدْمَةِ الْيَوْمِيَّةِ. ² فَدَعَا الْإِثْنَا عَشَرَ جُمُهورَ التَّلَامِيذِ وَقَالُوا: لَا يُرْضِي أَنْ تَتْرَكَ تَحْنُ كَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ وَتَخْدِمَ مَوَائِدَ. ³ فَاتَّخِذُوا، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةُ، سَبْعَةَ رِجَالٍ مِنْكُمْ مَشْهُوداً لَهُمْ وَمَمْلُوءِينَ مِنَ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ وَحِكْمَةٍ فَنُقِيمَهُمْ عَلَى هَذِهِ الْحَاجَةِ. ⁴ وَأَمَّا تَحْنُ فَتَوَاطَبُ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ وَخِدْمَةِ الْكَلِمَةِ. ⁵ فَخَسَّنَ هَذَا الْقَوْلُ أَمَامَ كُلِّ الْجُمُهورِ، فَاخْتَارُوا اسْتِيفَانُوسَ، رَجُلًا مَمْلُوءًا مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ وَالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ، وَفِيلِبُّسَ وَبَرْوُخُورَسَ وَنِيكَانُورَ وَتِيمُومُونَ وَتَرْمِيَّاسَ وَنِيْفُولَائُوسَ، دَخِيلاً أَنْطَاكِيًّا، ⁶ الَّذِينَ أَقَامُوهُمْ أَمَامَ الرُّسُلِ فَصَلُّوا وَوَضَعُوا عَلَيْهِمُ الْيَدَ. ⁷ وَكَانَتْ كَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ تَنْمُو وَتَعْدَدُ التَّلَامِيذُ تَكَثَّرُ جِدًّا فِي أُورُشَلِيمَ وَجُمُهورٌ كَثِيرٌ مِنَ الْكَهَنَةِ يُطِيعُونَ الْإِيمَانَ.

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⁸ وَأَمَّا اسْتِيفَانُوسُ فَإِذْ كَانَ مَمْلُوءًا إِيمَانًا وَقُوَّةً كَانَ يَصْنَعُ عَجَائِبَ وَآيَاتٍ عَظِيمَةً فِي الشَّعْبِ. ⁹ فَهَضَّ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْمَجْمَعِ الَّذِي يُقَالُ لَهُ مَجْمَعُ اللَّيْزَرِيِّينَ وَالْقَبْرَوَانِيِّينَ وَالْإِسْكَندَرِيِّينَ وَمِنَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ كِيلِيكِيَّةٍ وَأَسِيَّا يُخَاوِرُونَ اسْتِيفَانُوسَ. ¹⁰ وَلَمَّا يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يُقَامُوا الْحِكْمَةَ وَالرُّوحَ الَّذِي كَانَ يَتَكَلَّمُ بِهِ. ¹¹ جَبَّتِيذُ دَسُّوا لِرِجَالٍ يَقُولُونَ: إِنَّا سَمِعْنَاهُ يَتَكَلَّمُ بِكَلَامٍ تَجْدِيفٍ عَلَى مُوسَى وَعَلَى اللَّهِ. ¹² وَهَيَّجُوا الشَّعْبَ وَالشُّبُوحَ وَالْكَتَبَةَ فَقَامُوا وَخَطَفُوهُ وَأَتَوْا بِهِ إِلَى الْمَجْمَعِ ¹³ وَأَقَامُوا شُهوداً كَذَبَةً يَقُولُونَ: هَذَا الرَّجُلُ لَا يَقْتَرِعُ عَنْ أَنْ يَتَكَلَّمَ تَجْدِيفاً ضِدَّ هَذَا الْمُؤْضِعِ الْمُقَدَّسِ وَالتَّامُوسِ، ¹⁴ لِأَنَّا سَمِعْنَاهُ يَقُولُ: إِنَّ يَسُوعَ النَّاصِرِيَّ هَذَا سَيَبْقُضُ هَذَا الْمُؤْضِعَ وَبُعَيَّرُ الْعَوَائِدِ النَّبِيِّ سَلَمَتَا إِيَّاهَا مُوسَى. ¹⁵ فَسَخَّصَ إِلَيْهِ جَمِيعُ الْجَالِيسِينَ فِي الْمَجْمَعِ وَرَأَوْا وَجْهَهُ كَأَنَّهُ وَجْهُ مَلَكٍ.

¹ And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. ² Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. ³ Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ⁴ But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. ⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: ⁶ Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. ⁸ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. ⁹ Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. ¹⁰ And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. ¹¹ Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. ¹² And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the

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scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,¹³ And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:¹⁴ For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.¹⁵ And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.