

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

“Get Off The Bench!”

God is challenging us today to GET OFF THE BENCH and GET INTO THE GAME!

¹ *But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The **Greek-speaking** believers complained about the **Hebrew-speaking** believers, saying that their widows were being **discriminated against** in the daily distribution of food. **Acts 6:1 (NLT)***

² *So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, “**We apostles** should spend our time **teaching the word of God**, not running a food program. **Acts 6:2 (NLT)**”*

³ *And so, brothers, select **seven men** who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.” ⁵ Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following... **Acts 6:3-5 (NLT)***

⁷ *So **God’s message continued to spread**. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. **Acts 6:7 (NLT)***

²⁰ *Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. ²¹ “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one **on your right** and the other **on your left**...” **Matthew 20:20-21 (NLT)***

²⁵ *But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you **it should be quite different**. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸ **For even I, the Son of Man, came not to be served but to serve others, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**” **Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)***

**The disciples asked:
"How can someone serve me?"**

**Jesus asks:
"How can I serve?"**

**When I make it all about me, I ask:
"How can someone serve me?"**

**When I make it all about the mission of others, I ask:
"How can I serve?"**