Acts 6:1-7

Vincent Sawyer

WORD CHOICE

A. - "Serve" (Attend; wait on; ex. at a table) is the word choice because:

1.The idea of "attend" corresponds to the daily nature of such service (v.1 - "Daily serving").
2.In context (v.4) the Apostles used [ ] in the sense of "attending to" something (ie. They determined to steadfastly continue waiting on the spiritual needs of people by prayer and the ministry of the Word.
3.Luke primarily uses [ ] in the sense of attending or waiting on someone in contexts of meeting physical needs. (Lk.4:39, 10:37, 12:37, 17:8, 22:26,27)
4.[ ] used with the dative - "table" ( ) is indicative of a attending or waiting on someone (cp. Jn.12:2).
5."Help" (in the sense of supporting someone) is not the word choice because: the idea of "help" would not correspond to the dative being used - "tables". (this sense is limited to contexts describing the recipients of the help as people not abstract objects such as "tables" (Mt.25:44, Lk.8:3, Ro.15:25).

B. - "Table" (Literal table - upon which money is placed) is the words choice because:

1.The dative use of "table" is locative, indicating the place from which money was being distributed.
2.In the previous chapters of the book of Acts - "money" was placed at a specific location ("the apostle's feet") and then was distributed to meet the needs of church members in need. (Acts 5:2,3,8 - "price"; Acts 4:34 & 35 - "sell...proceeds...distribution to each as any had need; Acts 2:45 - "selling property..and sharing as any had need.)
3.The literal use of "table" [ ] is the primary use in the N.T. (cp. Lk.22:21,30; Heb.2:9), and is specifically used to refer to the table on which money-changers displayed their coins -(Mt.21:12; Jn.2:15; Mk.11:15; Lk.19:23)
4.A cognate word [ ] is used to specifically describe a money-changer or banker (Mt.25:27).

C. -"Devoted to" (to be busily engaged in something) is the word choice because:

1.The idea of "devoted to" is supported in context by:
a. Its contrast with [ ]. (to be devoted to something is just the opposite of abandonment)
b.The "devotion" implied by the need to begin an appointed office of "Deacon"
[Note: The word "but"(v.4) [ ] indicates the above contrasts of areas being devoted to]
2. This word is used by Luke in this sense in Acts 1:14 in describing devotion to "prayer".
3.The renewed "devotion" of the Apostles is evident in context by the results of such devotion (v.7 - "The Word of God was increasing...).
4.Every time this word is used in the N.T. it describes a continual, steadfast devotion to something (it occurs 10 times).
5.The noun form [ ] of [ ] describes a devoted perseverance (Eph.6:18).