

In the Name of ...

Acts Chapter 19

Act 19:1

1) Baptized In the Name of ... vs 1-10

It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples.

- Last chapter we learned that Apollos was strengthened in his knowledge concerning Jesus in Ephesus by Priscilla and Aquila. Apollos then went and ministered to the believers in Corinth
- Paul had started his 3rd missionary journey strengthening the disciples in Galatia and he was headed for Ephesus.



- Ephesus was a trade center of Asia much like Corinth was the trade center of Greece.
 - 300,000 people in Ephesus
 - Had a Temple to Diana (one of the 7 Wonders of the World).
 - Idolatry was a chief source of trade Acts 19:24
 - Sexual immorality was practiced in the temple and in the culture
 - Ephesians 4:19 "they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness."
 - Acts 19:13 indicates that demon possession was commonplace
 - Paul instructing Timothy on how to minister in Ephesus tells him in 1 Timothy 1:3-4 "...remain on in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculations rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith." False Doctrine was embraced.
- This is what Paul wanted to come to. (Ministry is where the need is not where you want it to be)
- Paul came to Ephesus and ran into some disciples. (assumed that they are of Jesus)
 - Two Schools of thought on these disciples.
 1. These disciples were believers who, like Apollos didn't fully know the way of Jesus. But that they were believers because the word used here is disciples.
 2. These were not Christian but they were seekers who have heard part of the story and are needing to hear the rest of the story.
- Luke 14:26-27;33 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.... So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."
- There are disciples who are not believers, and there are believers who are not disciples. Both are in sad circumstances.
- Paul sees something in them (or doesn't see something) that prompts the question.

Act 19:2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they {said} to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

- Paul asks if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed.
- Another thought that is supported by the greek rules of grammar that this is saying, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit since you believed?"
- When a person believed a man receives the Holy Spirit.
 - John 20:22 The Disciples after seeing the resurrected Jesus believe and Jesus fills them with the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is in them "And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
 - Ephesians 1:13-14 "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of {God's own} possession, to the praise of His glory."
- Yet there is a pouring forth of the Holy Spirit on believers that is more than that at conversion. For the disciples had received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them but they received something more on the Day of Pentecost.
- In Acts chapter 1 we looked at the 3 administrations of the Holy Spirit
"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, {but} you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." John 14:17
"Para" John 14:17 Alongside or with
"En" John 14:17 Dwell in
"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" Acts 1:8
"Epi" Acts 1:8 Upon
- The disciples said they hadn't known if "there is a Holy Spirit." A better translation would be they hadn't known "if the Holy Spirit had come."
 - They knew what John the Baptist taught. In Luke 3:16 John the Baptist taught that "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
 - Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63 speak of the Holy Spirit. So this was not a new teaching for those who were Jewish or God-Fearers.
- So this prompts Paul to ask another question.

Act 19:3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism."

Act 19:4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

Act 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- Jesus commanded the disciple to go and make disciples "baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19
- John's baptism was a preparation for the WAY of the Lord. Repentance alone does not save a man.
- Paul presents Jesus to these men and they believed and were baptized. Paul would not have baptized them had they not believed.
- This also shows that these men were truly disciples even though they may not have been Christians. The quickness to believe and act upon their belief demonstrates they are disciples.
 - Do we demonstrate that we are disciples or does our hesitation demonstrate that we are saved but not really disciples?

Act 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they {began} speaking with tongues and prophesying.

Act 19:7 There were in all about twelve men.

- I cannot help but wonder why 12 men who have been carrying on a conversation would need to speak in tongues unless tongues were a gift of language spoken to God not to men.
- This is the final group that the gospel message was to go. The completion given with the Holy Spirit as on the Day of Pentecost. (We see that Salvation and The Promise to All People)
 - To The Jew Acts 2:14 The Day of Pentecost
 - To The Samaritans Acts 8:17 In Samaria
 - To The Gentile Acts 10:44 At Cornelius' House
 - To All Nations Acts 19:6 In Ephesus
- Paul preached to many or few.

- Paul wrote the letters of 1 and 2 Corinthians during his stay in the city of Ephesus at this time, and 1 Corinthians has much to say about person and work of the Holy Spirit. (Guzik)

Act 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading {them} about the kingdom of God.

Act 19:9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

Act 19:10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

- Paul comes to the city and again enters the synagogue.
- When some came against the WAY he left and took the believers to a place he rented
 - more than a belief it is a WAY of life
- School of Tyrannus was possibly a private synagogue. The English Standard Version of the Bible has a footnote that says "from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm."
- Paul taught for two years here so that all Asia heard the Gospel
 - Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea
- Lessons from this first section:
 - 1) Paul purposely moves towards the place of ministry, even if it is not comfortable.
 - 2) Paul presses in conversation to reveal the real heart of those called disciples
 - 3) Paul seeks to strengthen all whether many or few
 - 4) Disciples receive and act upon the teaching they hear
 - 5) After we believe we receive a pouring upon of the Holy Spirit. Paul expected that these disciples would know if they have received the Holy Spirit.
 - The Fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal 5:22-25

Act 19:11 2) Casting out Devils In the Name of... vs 11-20

God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,

Act 19:12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and **the evil spirits went out.**

- Over the period of two years, God did some wonderful things among the people.
- "God was performing" these things. It wasn't Paul exercising a right from heaven for the people. This is saying God did these things, Not Paul.
- "Extraordinary" (KJV = special) the Greek reads "No Ordinary" what is being said is that God was performing unusual miracles. These were miracles that were not normal or to be expected.
- You could imagine the first time this occurred. With the culture being steeped in mysticism and superstition someone needing a healing for a friend or relative, takes Paul's "sweatband" from his workplace. (Being a tentmaker he left work from 11-4 teaching in the school of Tyrannus). This person takes it home and the sick recover. You could only imagine how fast this would want to be duplicated.
- This is not the only time these unique miracles take place.
 - Acts 5:15 - Families brought loved ones to Peter so that his shadow would fall on them and so they might be healed.
 - Matthew 14:36 - Jesus' garment hem would be touched and a woman was healed.
- Today, we have come so far away from what happened here in Acts. Today we see:
 - TV preachers claiming they can reproduce similar miracles.
 - They will send these cloths for a gift of 50 dollars.
 - The emphasis is the money not the compassionate healing.
- This passage implies that Paul wasn't orchestrating this. But that he was implicated by association.

Act 19:13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches."

Act 19:14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

- There were traveling ministries in Paul's day. Here we see Jewish exorcists who traveled casting out evil spirits.

- These itinerant Jews had some family clout. They were the sons of Sceva who was a chief priest.
- "Clout" has a couple of meanings.
 - 1) is strong influence or pull usually political
 - 2) is also what a worthless piece of cloth is called.
- These seven sons thought they had clout but they will find they only had clout.
- They adjure these evil spirits by the names of Jesus and Paul. It is evident they had knowledge of success in exorcism by Jesus and Paul and were counting on success for themselves by name dropping. They possibly were used to a reaction from people when they dropped the name of their father.
- Two ways we do this same thing as these 7 sons:
 - Imitation - believing that by seeing something happen and trying to duplicate with out the Lords direction the same results will happen. (Formulas)
 - Riding Coat Tails - believing that results will happen because of relationship with successful people

Act 19:15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

- The evil spirit was nudged into engaging in a conversation.
- Luke 4:33-35 *"In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!""*
- Jesus rarely allowed devils to speak.
- The KJV says " Jesus I know and Paul I know"
 - Jesus I Know "*ginosko*" I have intimate knowledge and/or a full knowledge of.
 - Paul I Know "*epistamai*" I am acquainted with. Or has got my attention.
- What is evident is that demons know who their enemies are. And those who pose no treat at all the demons don't waste the effort to know them.

Act 19:16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

- The man who was demon possessed attacked the Seven Sons and beat them and ripped the clothes off them. Terrified the sons ran from the encounter.
- Their deliverance ministry was ruined (Look at the next verse)

Act 19:17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

Act 19:18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.

Act 19:19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and {began} burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

Act 19:20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

- The account of the Seven Sons became known to all in Ephesus. I could only imagine that they left town.
- But look how it worked out for the true ministry of the Lord. **REPENTANCE**
 - The Lord Jesus was Magnified
 - Many believed (repenting by confessing and disclosing)
 - They were burning their magic books that were valuable.
 - The word of the Lord grew

There is a change that comes over the believers and they had to leave those things that are contrary to Jesus. There should be a contrast between the believer and those in the world.

- *"You will have enough temptation in your own mind without going after these things. Is there any habit, any practice, that you have got that defiles your soul? If Christ loves you, and you come and trust in him, you will make short work of it. Have done with it, and have done with it forever." (Spurgeon)*

Act 19:21 **3) No Small Disturbance** vs 21-41

Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."

Act 19:22 And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

- Romans 15:25-26 "But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem."
- 1 Corinthians 16:1-3 "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem"
- Paul intended to go to Jerusalem but needed to collect the offerings these Greek churches were collecting for the poor saints in Jerusalem.
- Paul evidently was compassionate to meet needs but he was also seeing the importance of the unity, the tying together the Greek churches and the Jewish churches.
 - Paul was circumspect. He was constantly thinking of others. Planning ahead as he ministered.

But meanwhile, Trouble comes a calling.

Act 19:23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.

Act 19:24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

Act 19:25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar {trades,} and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

- In Ephesus, The Temple of Artemis was one of the 7 Wonders of the World. (wonder meaning things to be seen) This temple bringing in a great tourism trade also created a business for idol and temple trinkets to sell.
- With Paul evidently turning the town away from idol worship, the craftsmen, lead by Demetrius, are upset over the loss of business.

Act 19:26 "You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods {at all.}

- These craftsmen are afraid of the truth being known. "Gods made with hands are no gods at all"
- The truth is the god you fabricate is not a god.
- This is an image of the goddess Artemis



Idolatry

- 1) commanded against Commandment 1 & 2
- 2) Not just worship by ancient civilizations of carved images
- 3) We are to love the Lord with all are heart, soul, mind and strength – anything that comes between that love of God is idolatry
- 4) Rays story of buying a tv for kids - watching cartoons – coming home – not greeting dad. That activity

- became more important than a relationship with dad.
- 5) Idolatry is fashioning a god to meet your own design (*Man is made into HIS likeness not God made in man's likeness*)
 - 6) A test is the words "To Me" If you say "to me God is like...." You are sliding or squarely in Idolatry
 - 7) We are trying to make God acceptable to us. Actually we need to be making our lives a sacrifice acceptable to God
 - 8) Aaron making an idol the people needed to give up what was precious to form the idol.
 - 9) Luke 16:15 "*You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.*"
 - 10) Malachi 3:6 "*For I am the LORD, I change not*"

Act 19:27 "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."

- Their ungodly trade was falling into disrepute.
- When there is a change in the heart, those things that once seemed so important to us will become worthless.
 - George Whitfield in 1740s during the Great Awakening, bars in the Northeast were closing down.
 - The Welsh Revival in 1902 the same thing happened to the pubs in England.
- There is a sense of what is right and wrong and in a Christian that brings about a change.

Act 19:28 When they heard {this} and were filled with rage, they {began} crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Act 19:29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

- Rome has a very low tolerance for civil disorder. This shows the extent that these men were disturbed.
- The mob grabbed a couple of men that traveled with Paul.
- Paul wanted to go and rescue them.

Act 19:30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him.

Act 19:31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

- Some of the believing citizens of Asia persuaded Paul not to go.

Act 19:32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.

- Some were there because of the offense against Artemis.
- Some were there because their business (their wallet) was threatened.
- Some were there to watch a train wreck
- Some were just going along with the crowd.

Act 19:33 Some of the crowd concluded {it was} Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.

Act 19:34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a {single} outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about **two hours**, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Act 19:35 After quieting the crowd, the town clerk *said, "Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the {image} which fell down from heaven?"

- The town clerk was actually a very high Roman Official and did have the authority and ability to calm the situation down.

Act 19:36 "So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash.

Act 19:37 "For you have brought these men {here} who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.

- This town clerk recognizes that Paul didn't preach against the goddess. He simply preached Jesus. The regenerated heart cried out it's own conviction against the temple and the goddess.
- Alexander could not get the crowds attention to calm them down. But one of their own could.

- Act 19:38 "So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are {available;} let them bring charges against one another.
- Act 19:39 "But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.
- The town clerk told the crowd that there are proper lawful ways of dealing with issues between people.
 - If Demetrius really had a prosecutable case against Paul, let him do so in the courts.
 - This town clerk speaks sensibly to the people. What this shows is that rational people have nothing to fear from Christianity.
- Act 19:40 "For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today's events, since there is no {real} cause {for it,} and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering."
- Act 19:41 After saying this he dismissed the assembly.
- The town clerk defuses the situation.
 - The town clerk weighs their conviction against the penalty of offending the state. Their lack of real conviction causes them to go home.
 - How do we measure up if the penalty for believing or speaking of Jesus is severe? Will we just go home or are we willing to die for Christ.
 - It didn't always have to be Paul to deal with the situation. God can use even the government to do the job. The job it was created for.
 - *Romans 13:1-4 "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil."*

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible[®],
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)**