



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 19 (EPHESUS)

Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (Part-i)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Paul's interaction with disciples @ Ephesus (1-7): Were the disciples 'disciples of Christ'? What questions did Paul ask them? What was missing in their life? Why is it important to ask questions? When is the gift of holy spirit received?

Paul's continuing ministry (8-10): What was Paul's focus in his ministry? Why did he shift his ministry to the school of Tyrannus? How long? Was the ministry fruitful?

Special miracles (11-22): What miracles were done by Paul? Why didn't it work for the Jewish exorcists? Why is the question asked by evil spirit intriguing? What was the impact on Jews and Greeks? How can we tell that their conversion was authentic? What does "purposed in spirit" mean? Paul's next planned stop?

Riots in Ephesus (23-41): Who instigated the riots, and why? What was Paul accused of? How did the town clerk calm the crowd and dismiss the case against Paul?

Personal Reflection: *Have we "burnt" the "precious things" from our old life?*

Acts 19:

Two important Questions

Have we received the
“Heavenly Gift”?

Have we gotten rid of
“earthly treasures”?

Paul's interaction with disciples (1-7)

Where the disciples 'disciples of Christ'?

What questions did Paul ask them? Why is it important to ask questions? What was missing in their life? When is the gift of holy spirit received? How can we know for sure?

Paul's interaction with disciples

- Paul's quick Q&A Session:
 - Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? (2) Answer: No
 - Unto whom then are ye baptized? (3). Answer: John's baptism of repentance
 - Maybe taught by Apollos who was missing full teaching (Acts 18)
 - What prompted Paul to ask these questions of disciples?
- Critical Questions should be asked to understand the true state of people... answers can open the door to more effective ministry! Do we ask critical questions?

Paul's ministry to 'disciples'

Preached the truth ... must believe on Lord Jesus Christ (4)

- Response: Baptized and received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Samaria, Acts 8:12-17) (2nd Baptism) (laying on of hands is also associated with conveying that they are now part of the universal church)
- Evidence: Spoke in tongues and prophesied (not the only evidence required)

When do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 1: 13 (NIV) When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses

Have we received the power of the Holy Spirit?

Paul's continuing ministry (8-10)

What was Paul's focus in his ministry?

Why did he shift his ministry to the school of Tyrannnus?

How long did he teach?

Was the ministry fruitful?

Paul's continuing ministry

- Began by speaking boldly in Synagogues (3-months)
 - Reasoning and persuading about the Kingdom of God
 - Again, Jews reject!
- **How does Paul respond to rejection by the Jews?**

Paul's continuing ministry

Following rejection by Jews, Paul begins teaching in school of gentile teacher, Tyrannus.

- Taught daily for 2-years ... (total time in Ephesus=3 years, Acts 20:31)
- Long and sustained teaching leads to effective work
- **Great Result:** "all that dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greek" (10)

Kingdom of God

(Discussed before in Acts 1)

Kingdom of God: FUTURE

- Lord's Prayer (Mathew 6:10 .. Thy Kingdom come)
- Last Supper (Mark 14:25)
- Final Judgement (Mathew 7:21-23, Mathew 25:34 (31-46, Sheep & goats), Luke 13:22-30)
- Literal kingdom to be established later in Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4), everlasting Kingdom (II Peter 1:11)

Kingdom of God: TODAY

- Today the kingdom is an invisible kingdom
- It represents the Kingship of Lord over His people
- It represents Redeemed people (Colossians 1:13 ... translated from darkness into the Kingdom of His dear son) (John 3:3, John 3:5)
- It is within us (Luke 17:21 ... Kingdom of God is within you)

Special miracles (11-22)

What miracles were done by Paul? Why didn't it work for the Jewish exorcists? Why is the question asked by evil spirit intriguing?

What was the impact on Jews and Greeks?

What does “purposed in spirit” mean? Paul's next planned stop?

Special Miracles

- Paul's handkerchiefs and aprons lead to healing of diseases and evil spirits
 - Healing not unusual ... the way the healing took place is unique (similar to Peter's shadow (Acts 5:15-16))
 - Confirms apostolic ministry (I Corinthians 12:12)
- I Corinthians 12: 12** (NIV) I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles.

Vagabond Jews, Exorcists imitate Paul but fail

“we adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches” (13) ... did not work!

There is power when we call on the name of Jesus (3:6, 16, 4:10-12) but such power is available only for Lord’s children

Evil spirit: “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?” (15)

Evil spirit defeated the seven Sons of Sceva (16)

Defeat of Sons of Sceva leads to revival

- Great fear came upon Jews and Greeks (17)
- Name of Lord Jesus magnified (17)
- True Revival as seen by: (18-19)
 - Believed
 - Confessed
 - Burnt

MIGHTILY GREW THE WORD OF LORD & PREVAILED (20)

“go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain”
(John 15:16)

Even today many trying to be sons of Sceva

“Handkerchief ministry” of modern churches ... will not work!

“Holy water from Jerusalem” ... will not work!

**POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT FOR SALE
and
CANNOT BE COPIED**

Paul's continuing trip (21-22)

- **Purposed in His spirit** ... guided by the Spirit
 - Travel through Macedonia, Achaia, to Jerusalem, and then Rome as his final destination
 - Trip to Jerusalem to deliver funds he had collected from Macedonia and Achaia (Romans 15:25-31, I Corinthians 16:1-4)
 - Rome ... longing to reconnect (Romans 1:7-15)

Paul's continuing trip (21-22)

- Timothy and Erastus: co-workers (Sent ahead of time to Macedonia)
- Paul stayed a little longer in Ephesus because of the ministry

I Corinthians 16:8-9 (NIV) :But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

Riots in Ephesus (23-41)

Who instigated the riots, and why?

What was Paul accused of?

How did the town clerk calm the crowd and dismiss the case against Paul?

Riots in Ephesus

Who instigated the riots, and why?

Demetrius ... upset because his idol business is suffering due to Paul's preaching (26)

incites public opinion against Paul (motivated by self-interest but presented as patriotism or religious reason) (27)

Able to get the support of people (28) and put city in confusion (29)

- **How did the town clerk calm the crowd and dismiss the case against Paul?**
 - Reinforces that there is no legal case ... cult is not under threat (35-36) ... these men (Gaius and Aristarchus) are not guilty of robbing the temple or blasphemy against the goddess (37)
 - Indeed, the crowd was in violation of laws through rioting
 - Paul and his work saved as Romans did not have a case against Paul or Christians (Similar to Gallio in Acts 18)

Personal Reflection:

50,000 Pieces of Silver (Acts 19:19) ...

Have we “burnt” the “precious things” from our old life?

Two responses ...

Mathew 19:22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Luke 5:11 ... forsook all and followed him

Acts 19:

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