

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Confronts Satan, Pt 3

Acts 19:11-20

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PowerPoint Presentation included: none

SermonAudio Blurb: Paul is now in the beginning stages of his third missionary journey and finds himself in the city of Ephesus. Here we see him come face-to-face with the forces of Satan as the gospel is preached, people believe and there is a demonic push back. In all of this, we see the attempts to mimic the power of Christ in the gospel by those who are not believers. We see the material cost to repenting from false practices and we see how the gospel creates tension and hatred from those who refuse to bow in faith to Jesus Christ.

I. Introduction.

A. Read 19:11-20.

B. Review:

1. The title of this short series is The Gospel Confronts Satan.
 - a. Background of Ephesus as a place of demonic oppression.
 - b. The simplicity of Paul's presence in such a dark place to bring the light to it.
 - c. In spite of the many claims by various groups to be busy about tearing down Satan's strongholds. You will hear people talking about "binding" Satan.
 - (1) This belief is that by doing that you strip Satan of his power when you do this.
 - (2) Often this is tied to what is called "generational curses" and that we need to trace our family history backwards to find anyone who may have allowed demonic influence into their life and now it has influence and power in your life today.
 - (3) There was a popular author, Neil Anderson, who wrote a book called *The Bondage Breaker* years ago. This was a suggested book here except that one of the ladies in the group asked me to review it first.
 - (4) There have been so-called revivals and the level of folly is frankly mind-boggling. People doing all sorts of crazy stuff

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while claiming that it is a proof of the working of the Holy Spirit.

2. These miracles were not ordinary. Note the mention by Luke in vs 11 that these were extraordinary. I note this because in the Charismatic and NAR type of churches every day seems to be extraordinary claims. In other words, the supposed anointed miracle workers of today claim things well beyond what happened in the early church with the Apostles.
 - a. There was a movement here the swept up several young pastors and churches. It was called Naturally Supernatural. Like so many of these sort of ideas and movements the whole premise is that we are trying to do things in our own strength and we are failing because we are not leaning into the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. I invested an hour of my time watching a video on Healing the Sick from a course called naturallysupernaturalcourse.com. Aside from wasting my time, I heard how this is the “standing order from God” to us. We are to default to the duty of healing the sick. Not the gospel. Not the preaching of the Word of God. Our primary responsibility is to be healing the sick.
 - c. The couple teaching this course references miracles by Paul *as the norm* and yet our passage here speaks to the fact that they were not normal. Literally it would be translated as "no ordinary powerful deeds." So there are powerful deeds or works, and then there were the things God did through Paul.
 - d. Sadly, this passage is picked up by many other groups who talk about anointed healing cloths. If you wish to go down that messed up rabbit hole, just search for anointed prayer cloth.
 - (1) One popular speaker is apostle/pastor Kathryn Krick. If you invite her to speak once it is \$3,000 and \$11,000 if she speaks three times. This is for each session.
 - e. The irony of all of this sort of stuff is that these so-called prophets and apostles and miracle-workers end up being like those in Ephesus who made their living selling pagan trinkets and fetishes that were infused with power from the demonic realm.
 - f. You should have warning bells start going off when you hear people try to sell you some product that is designed to do what the Holy Spirit does to the obedient believer.

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- (1) No oil, incense, fabric, exercise, meditation technique, and such can actually produce true joy, peace, patience, contentment, goodness, and so on.
 - (2) These will never move a person into a practical righteousness. These will always distract from the gospel and the advancement of the gospel into dark places.
 - g. This sort of foolishness is the kindergarten or preschool for paganism and witchcraft.
- C. Contrast all of this sort of silliness the simple description of what was happening in Ephesus in vss 11-12.
- D. Key points to observe:
 - 1. This passage is comes right at the end of vs 10. Vss 11-20 are summarizing what was going on all that time Paul was in Ephesus. Notice what it emphasizes, “. . . all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.”
 - 2. The emphasis is not on Paul but on God who is doing these miracles. Paul is merely in the background (11-12).
 - 3. The consequence of the humiliation of the false exorcists was that “the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.” Not any person, the focus was directed fully to Jesus Christ. (17)
 - 4. As Paul continued to preach Christ in this city though miracles continue, the focus was no the growth of the “word of the Lord.” (20)
 - 5. This is why I entitled these sermons as “The Gospel Confronts Satan.” As I close this short series out today by showing you three results of bringing the gospel to bear upon a very dark place.

II. The Gospel confronts Satan.

- A. First, God chose to do extraordinary miracles to establish the message of Paul (11-12).
 - 1. We have already considered these verses last week so I merely want to touch on them again by way of reminder.
 - 2. Paul is a nobody. He is not coming with a reputation of great rhetorical power.
 - 3. So how does Paul gain a foothold? How does he gain a hearing?

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- a. Not by setting up shop and doing a series of well-marketed tent-revivals.
 - b. But by God blessing him in such a way that people discovered that if something had touched Paul that they could bring it to those sick and those tormented by evil spirits and healing would happen.
- B. Second, the reputation and message of Jesus grows (13-17).
- 1. Note the “but” for it brings a contrast to the powerful miracles God was doing through Paul.
 - 2. You may recall back in Acts 8 that Simon the magicians wanted to duplicate the miracles of Peter but he only got rejection and rebuke for it.
 - 3. The unbelieving world takes the person of Jesus and tries to turn His name into a charm or incantation. And it is true to this day.
 - 4. These men tried invoking the name of Jesus and the name of Paul and it horribly all went wrong.
 - a. The evil spirit mocks them.
 - b. Then the evil spirit destroys them.
 - c. This whole thing was done in a very loud and public manner so that news of it spread quickly.
 - 5. The result was two-fold (17).
 - a. The first was fear.

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- b. The second was the name of Christ was magnified.
 - (1) Both the Jews and the Gentiles (Greeks) responded to this event.
 - (2) And this again bears repeating. Whenever a person becomes the focus in the Church rather than Christ there is a problem.
 - (3) Though the demon acknowledge Paul and Christ, the name of Paul was not being magnified.

- C. The third result is that the Word of God continued to grow and prevail (18-20).
 - 1. Vss 18-19 show us something interesting that is rather common, but also missed. These are believers here. They are Christians. They have believed the gospel, but notice what happens here.
 - 2. As they continue to learn and grow as new Christians more and more things continue to be revealed that they need to put away in their lives. And so they start revealing more and more about their former way of living.
 - 3. And what was replacing these practices? The Word of God.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Several errors to avoid.
 - 1. **There are miracle-workers today** just like in the days of the Apostles. Look at the fruit, listen to the doctrine and watch for the types of supposed miracles are being performed.
 - 2. **There are no miracles today.** Too many never ask God to heal because they do not believe He would.
 - 3. **The saying of the name of Jesus has inherent power.** This is simple paganism. The name of Jesus speaks to His person and His work and involves His will. You are speaking as one **sent** by Jesus and therefore you have His authority.

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4. **Even when miracles occur, they must not take center stage.** The focus and goal is always the expansion and exaltation of the gospel.
5. **The desire of the people will not be more miracles** but the teaching of the Word.
- B. The foremost responsibility of the Church is the preaching, teaching and knowing the Word of God.
 1. Because Satan always attacks truth with a lie.
 - a. The grand lie of the Fall, “Did God really say?” And then the second, “You surely shall not die!” And finally the third, “You will be like God.”
 - b. John 8:44-45.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 4:4.
 2. So the mandate is still the same as when Christ uttered the Great Commission 2,200 hundred years ago. We are to be busy proclaiming the gospel, baptizing those who believe, and teaching them the Word of God.

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace. Amen.