

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 19:11-21

- We left off with Paul ministering in Ephesus teaching and explaining the gospel of grace with some success, but after **3** months the Jewish leadership rebel against Paul and his ministry team and begin to speak evil of them and the truth so he packs up takes those who believed and moves to another venue called the school of Tyrannus. Paul would stay in Ephesus for another two years flooding the ears and hearts of those living and traveling in the region with God's Word resulting in both Jew and Greek to take notice of what he was preaching **V10**.

V11-21

- **V11-12** in the midst of Paul's ministering in Ephesus God was doing some amazing things, during the day Paul was working, just as many of his letters state that he didn't want to be a financial burden on anyone especially young believers, so he would practice his trade of tent making. Once he finished people would sneak in where he worked grab what he worked in things like sweaty head bands, handkerchiefs, aprons, and give them out to people who were sick. The Key here is "unusual" meaning not of the ordinary kind, translation, this doesn't happen often.
- So God being God would heal them, now does this mean that those today who are selling prayer cloths, or holy water that's supposedly been blessed is doing what's right? (No), you can know this because we don't see Paul profiting from any of the proceeds, in fact the only people in scripture who are benefitting from this miracle is the sick and needy. **Acts 5:15-16** similarly occurred as people from all around Jerusalem brought the sick and tormented to the Apostles and the people were healed, and some just by Peter's shadow passing over them.
- **V13-14** whenever there is an original move of God and true ministry is happening you can be sure the counterfeit is not far behind. **7** brothers of a chief priest named "**Sceva**" who call themselves exorcist, take it upon themselves to go and cast out some demons. Before we jump into the story let's look at why their so confident > **1st** they grew up in a religious home, as their father's a priest and not just any priest but a chief priest, **2nd** their attracted to power, seeing daddy rise up through the ranks of religion has got them ready and willing to make a name for themselves, **3rd** they think it's a formula and not a relationship for God to work through us.
- Notice they don't even know Jesus or Paul for that matter, and yet they are bold in commanding the demons to obey them and come out of the person. **V15** this shows that Demons pay attention as the evil spirit says "Jesus he knows, and Paul he knows but who are you" wow. These brothers followed all the steps but something was missing "**power**" and that comes from serving Jesus, Demons are not like humans who we can easily fool, they know where the true power lies and who is connected to Him, and obviously these men were not.

- **V16-17** the man with one demon soundly whips, beat, and embarrasses 7 men by stripping them of all their clothing and chased them out of the house naked and bleeding. This is an example of how Satan doesn't just want to defeat you he desires to humiliate you so thoroughly that it will damage you beyond repair emotionally, mentally and physically, so that you'll never want to cross his path again except to make an alliance with him not to hurt you again!
- Just like in **Acts 5:11** when Ananias and Saphire were taken out for lying and deceiving everyone hears about this incident and it causes "fear"- terror, the Greek word phobos- where we get our English word phobia from, but what Satan meant for evil God turns it around for good. **V18-19** God uses something terrifying to remind them that being a Christian is serious business and nothing to play around with, also that there is only one way, no short cuts can be taken to prevail against Satan. So people examined themselves and brought things that didn't need to be in their lives and burnt it so that it could not rise back up into their lives again.
- **V20-21** once the people confess-repent, and the church is cleansed, the Word which had already gone forward "**grew even more powerful**", this meant its influence. The Word itself is powerful enough but when a believer's testimony's added its influence grows even more in the hearts-minds of people, and it breaks down strongholds in our lives. The opposite end of this is when a believers testimony is bad and the Word goes out, then it has to fight against Satan, the flesh, the world, and our misrepresentation of it and the Lord > **1Pet 2:12**- the day of visitation which is when someone hears the gospel, our lives which they observed verifies that truth.