

The Acts of the Apostles, Part 42: Greater Things

Key Scripture: Acts 19:8-20

And he [Paul] entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. 10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

❖ Trouble in the Text

- Stubborn and Unbelieving
 - Ignoring rational arguments
 - Speaking against believers
- Dangerous Imitation
 - Itinerant priests (sons of Sceva)

❖ Trouble in the World

- Stubborn and Unbelieving
 - Ignoring historical evidence, miracles, consistent message, and compelling proof.
 - Speaking evil of the Gospel
- Dangerous Imitation

- Those who lie to God, themselves, and others about what they believe.
 - No power
 - No hope

❖ Grace in the Text

➤ Acts 19:17

- “And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.”

➤ Proverbs 9:10

- “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

❖ Grace in the World

➤ John 14:12-14

- “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

➤ There will always be those who are stubborn, speak evil of us, and pretend to have faith; but Jesus has already won the battle!

➤ Acts 19:20, “So the Word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily!”

❖ Communion