

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: To the End V

Text: Acts 19:11-20

HI: The truth of Jesus is no illusion.

Title: *True Truth*

Hook: Hall of mirrors

Date: 6.2.24

Purpose: To magnify the true value of knowing Jesus.

FCF: Like the Ephesian Christians, we can hold dear the things our culture values, not easily letting them go. When Jesus works in our lives, God's grace leads us to a new value system.

COR: Like Ephesus, we have our superstitions and value systems that place great worth on things we think will connect us to the transcendent. Jesus meets us here, bringing true relationship with the God who made us, not through our spells and incantations, but through his living presence and unmatched power.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: The message, presence, and power of Jesus are interwoven through this text. Jesus alone can save us. He is true truth, and this is no illusion.

Apologetic: The miracle of lives changed by the gospel authenticates the power of Jesus. We see stories of extraordinary miracles and our modern senses make us cynical. But we cannot deny the power of the gospel that has been changing lives for thousands of years. Look around, and you'll see people filled with God's Spirit whose lives bear witness to the truth and value of Jesus.

Text Tone: Exhort

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:11

Benediction: Ephesians 4:1-3

Outline:

I. The miraculous validates the message of Jesus. (11-12)

A. Ephesus was a magical place. (11-12, 18-19)

B. God worked in an extraordinary way. (11-12)

II. The counterfeit illuminates the truth of Jesus. (13-16)

A. The sons of Sceva were scam artists. (13-14)

B. They quickly found out that Jesus is real. (15-16)

III. The testimony magnifies the value of Jesus. (17-20)

A. The Sceva incident confirmed the truth. (17)

B. The Ephesian Christians count the cost. (18-19)

Main Idea:

Subject: What magnified the name of Jesus in Ephesus?

Complement: The juxtaposition of his true authority compared to the counterfeit

Exegetical Idea: The name of Jesus was magnified in Ephesus through the juxtaposition of his genuine authority compared to the counterfeit.

Theological Idea: The true power of Jesus is magnified when the counterfeit is illuminated.

Homiletical Idea: The truth of Jesus is no illusion.

Introduction:

Hall of mirrors: "A confusing or disorienting situation in which it is difficult to distinguish between truth and illusion."

READ Acts 19:11-20

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.

I. The miraculous validates the message of Jesus. (11-12)

READ Acts 19:13-16

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Acts 3:16: And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

II. The counterfeit illuminates the truth of Jesus. (13-16)

READ Acts 19:17-20

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III. The testimony magnifies the value of Jesus. (17-20)

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