

Showdown at the Ephesian Corral
Acts 19:8-20

Shootout #1: God versus Rebel Humans (vv. 8-10)

Shootout #2: God versus Diseases and Demons (vv. 11-12)

Shootout #3: God versus Crooks and Demons (vv. 13-17)

Shootout #4: God versus Hidden Sinful Practices (vv. 18-20)

Discussion Questions:

- 1) In Acts 19:8-10, the persecution of the church results in the spread of the gospel. Can you think of other examples of this happening in the Bible or in your own life?
- 2) Read Acts 19:11-12. Humans are prone to attribute supernatural power to physical objects. Can you think of some examples? Even Christians are prone to have superstitions related to their routines, prayers, and habits. Can you think of some examples? How does the gospel of Jesus confront the human proclivity to look to physical objects and superstitions for power and freedom?
- 3) Read Acts 19:18-20. Verse 18 says that many who were coming were doing two things. What were they doing? What are the benefits of confession of sin for the believer and for the church? How does “divulging” or “revealing” sinful practices publicly help a believer follow Jesus?

One Thing:

Have secret sins or struggles with shame taken over your life? Or, has spiritual pride and self-righteousness hurt your relationship with God and others? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see hidden sin in your life, to confess it to him and others, to change, and to follow him by grace through faith.