

Jesus I know and Paul I know

Acts 19

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

- The beginning of chapter 19 says that when Paul arrived to Ephesus he found some believers and asked them if they had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and they said Vs. 2 “We have not heard that there is a Holy Spirit”. Then Vs. 6 “Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”
- Ephesus is a place where God moved powerfully and the work of the Holy Spirit didn’t stop there, It continues...
- The text tells us God did extra-ordinary miracles through Paul. When the sick are being healed and demons are being cast out, one thing is certain it’s not the work of man, it’s the work of God.

“even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”

- Paul was only able to be in one place at a time, but this didn’t stop miracle work of God from continuing. Even the handkerchief and aprons he wore were taken and healed the sick and cast out evil spirits.
- This might seem a little strange but I believe it was a simply an act of faith on the peoples part and a point of contact for these believers. God was moving in a powerful way and they wanted this to spread as far as possible.

Vs. 13-16

13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” **14** Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. **15** One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” **16** Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

NKJV

Vs. 13

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

- It seems, that word had gotten out about the extraordinary miracles and evil spirits being cast out in Paul’s ministry. Now in the theme of spiritual interest, these Son’s of Sceva have a new found strategy to casting out evil sprits; by the authority of Jesus whom Paul preaches.
- The trouble they are about to encounter will soon wake them up to spiritual revelation.
- The name Jesus is not a religious button, His name is not a ritual or incantation. The name Jesus is the name that is above every name. Jesus is the name that threatens the powers of darkness and has the authority to set every captive free from the grip of bondage.
- These Sons of Sceva had the right name; the only problem was they knew the name but they didn’t know the person. They didn’t have a real and personal relationship with Jesus.
- Friends my prayer is that we wouldn’t only know the name, but that God would give us a Revival of knowing Jesus.

“We could say that the sons of Sceva did not have the right to use the name of Jesus, because they had no real personal connection to Him. In the same pattern, there are many people – many churchgoers – who have no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They only know “the Jesus the pastor preaches” or “the Jesus my spouse believes in” instead of the Jesus of their own salvation.” **Guzik**

Vs. 15

One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”

- The evil spirit knew exactly who Jesus was, and knew exactly who Paul was. But didn’t know these seven.
- Apparently, evil spirits know who their enemies are, and they don’t waste their effort knowing those who aren’t a threat.
- I often think back to the days of playing football. When we were getting ready to play another team our coach would gather all of us and we would watch the other team play. Coach was quick to point out the players we needed to be aware of and how they played. On the night of the game we knew their numbers and what to expect.
- But we paid no attention to those on the sidelines. We paid no attention to those who didn’t challenge us getting the win.
- In the same way the Kingdom of Darkness pays no attention to those who are not a force for the Kingdom of God.

Vs. 16

Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

- Because the sons of Sceva had no real relationship with Jesus, they had no authority against the evil spirit. They left the encounter naked and bleeding. It was dangerous for them to naively play games with real spiritual things.

Vs. 17-20

17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor (magnified). **18** Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. **19** A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas (pieces of silver). **20** In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

“Ephesus was a stronghold of Satan. Here many evil things both superstitious and satanic were practiced. Books containing formula for sorcery and other ungodly and forbidden arts were plentiful in that city.” (Gaebelein)

Vs. 18

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.

- Before the Seven Sons of Sceva incident, many believers didn't understand the consequence of what they were involved in. Perhaps they saw sorcery and spells as fun and games, beneficial and innocent, until it was exposed for what it really is.

Vs. 19

A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

- The sons of Sceva incident caused such an awakening to spiritual realm in the church that Christians began renouncing any remaining connection to the demonic. Christians began to renounce the demonic by confessing and by burning their books tied to sorcery, regardless of their value.
- The incident shook the people with the reality of the spiritual realm. It caused them to fear the Lord and wake up.
- As a result, they turned from every source of sorcery and turned fully to the Lord. The name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor and magnified.

“These books and scrolls full of magic charms, amulets and incantations were well known in Ephesus, and they were valuable. The value of fifty thousand drachmas or pieces of silver today has been estimated to anywhere between \$1 to \$5 million. (Guzik)

Christians must do this also today, removing books, images, computer files, statues, charms, games, or whatever else might have connection with demonic spirits. They should also destroy them so they are of no use to others.” (Guzik)

- Do these kinds of things exist today?
- If so Christians should rid their homes of every game, movie, crystal, charm or item that in any way links to the spirit world outside of Jesus.
- It's not ok to bury or put away. These things should be destroyed.

“You will have enough temptation in your own mind without going after these things. Is there any habit, any practice, that you have got that defiles your soul? If Christ loves you, and you come and trust in him, you will make short work of it. Be done with it, and be done with it forever.” (Spurgeon)

Story: My friend Jimmy coming out of the occult

Vs. 20

In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

- The end result was Revival. Instruments of darkness were destroyed and hearts were turned to Jesus.
- Anytime the enemy is exposed in his evil schemes and the eyes of Christians are opened; people run to Jesus, the Kingdom of God advances and as the worship song goes... “Hell lost another one, I am free.”
- We live in a world where movies, music and entertainment unashamedly promote immortality, demonic themes and the occult continually. Be careful what you allow in your homes, your vehicles and with your families...

Deuteronomy 18

9 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. **10** Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, **11** or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. **12** Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.

Leviticus 19:31

Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:6

‘I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute themselves by following them, and I will cut them off from their people.

Galatians 5

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. **I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- The Bible consistently condemns every form of witchcraft, sorcery, and related practices as a rejection of God's authority and a reliance on dark spiritual powers.
- Guard your eye gate, your ear gate and mind...

This is what the devil knows:

Whatever you tolerate, you will eventually allow

Whatever you allow, you will open yourself up to

- As Christians today we desperately need discernment.
- Guard your own heart and your children. The devil's objective is to use intrigue and curiosity to desensitize innocent children to witchcraft and sorcery. And he will do it all in the name of entertainment, fun and even education and literacy.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus we pray for an Acts 19 Revival to break out in our city and in our nation. We come against the plan of the enemy to steal kill and destroy and we stand on the promise that in Jesus there is life and life abundant.

I pray the blood of Jesus over every person within the sound of my voice. I pray the blood of Jesus over our past decisions. I pray the blood of Jesus over the decisions we make to day.

Give us the boldness in this hour to discern and walk in obedience to your will. Help us to be aware of the enemies strategies. Help us guard our children, our spouses, our families and our homes from the attack of the devil.

Today we stand on the authority of Jesus name and we break every plan of the devil. In the name of Jesus I break every spell, hex and curse spoken against your people and your church.. I pray a holy consecration over every heart and all that belongs to us. We surrender everything we have to the Lordship of Jesus.

Heavenly Father I pray your blessing over your Church.
Lord that you would be a wall around them and a fire within them.
A hedge of protection about them.

Even as the Lord said to Israel in Isaiah 43
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.

Church,

"The Lord bless you and keep you,"

"The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,"

"The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace"

Amen