

## Inevitable Disruption

### Acts 19:1-20

The third missionary journey 18:24-21:26

**19:1**, After 6-9 months away Paul returns to Ephesus.

- Luke purposely includes this interaction as to compare and contrast the differences with Apollos.

#### Apollos

Filled with the HS

No mention of additional baptism

#### Disciples of John

Do not have the HS

Baptized in the name of Jesus

#### Baptism

- When the baptism of John was seen as pointing beyond itself to Jesus (as with Apollos), it was accepted as Christian baptism by the early church and not repeated when a believer experienced more of the Christian faith.
- When the baptism of John was understood as independent of or rivaling a commitment to Jesus, then placing ones faith in Jesus was followed by Christian baptism.

“What this text and others in Acts remind us of is that early Christianity did not immediately have a universally recognized and set approach to discipling people.” ~ Ben Witherington III

**vs. 8-10**, A hall is rented.

**1 Corinthians 16:19** The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla send you greetings warmly in the Lord, along with the church that meets in their home.

- Bold proclamation of the gospel in Ephesus.
- The rock in the pond is causing a great amount of ripples.

**vs. 11**, God was performing extraordinary miracles.

How can I manipulate the situation as to be the one who has the power?

Is there something more powerful than all of the power that is represented in the city of Ephesus?

Yes...yes there is. It is the power of God in and through Jesus!

Remember: The flesh, the world, and the enemy all trying to disrupt and distract from the power of God.

**vs. 12**, sweat cloths and work aprons

**vs. 20**, Οὕτως κατὰ κράτος τοῦ κυρίου ὁ λόγος ἤξανε καὶ ἴσχυεν.

In this way, in power the Lord the word to grow and to be strong (prevail).

The summary statement after caring for the Hellenistic Widows.

**Acts 6:7** So the word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.

The summary statement after Peter's arrest, imprisonment, rescue and Herod's death.

**Acts 12:24** But the word of God spread and multiplied.

A strong statement is made of power. “The word of God grew and was strong in accordance with the power of the Lord.” ~ NT Wright

**Ephesians 1:19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

**3:16, 20** I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, **20** Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us

**6:10** Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength.

The pride Ephesus had in its power is no match for the real power that is demonstrated through the name of the Lord Jesus.

**vs. 13-19**, The events that took place which demonstrate the above truth (reality).

**vs. 14**, Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest - all self given titles to give the appearance of title, prestige, and understanding of the mystical.

**vs. 16**, Evil spirits are real and they aren't stupid. They are aware of genuine sources of power. I know Jesus and I recognize Paul. You however are a nobody!

- Shame and embarrassment are delivered (Power according to the world)!

"Magic attempts to gain that power without paying the price of humble submission to the God whose power it is." ~ C.S. Lewis

**vs. 17**, the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem.

**vs. 18-19**, The power of Jesus leads to conviction, repentance, and change.

#### Luke's point

- The way of Jesus is shown as a viable alternative to popular religion, magic, and mysteries (astrology, fate, etc).
- The way of Jesus cannot be manipulated for one's own selfish gain. That path will lead to harm.

**Question:** Do you find yourself intrigued by power? How do you organize your life to be the one who remains in power (control)? How might the Holy Spirit be nudging you to release control?

Have you considered the extraordinary power of Jesus? How does this truth shape your everyday life? Your conversations? Your expectations? Your hope?

Notice the difference between the final destination of world power and Jesus centered power?

Shame and embarrassment -Or- Conviction, repentance, and change