

Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 19-20

Lesson 14

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 19-20

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below a group of key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way

Key Words Chapter 19: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Paul, believed, word, baptized/baptism, and Way

Key Words chapter 20: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Paul/we, and words such as proclaimed/testify/preaching/declare/taught

DID YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN YOU BELIEVED? Read Acts 19:1-10

1. Acts 19:1 informs us that Paul found disciples in Ephesus. What did he ask them? Verse 2
 - a. What was their answer?
2. Acts 19:7 reveals that Paul was addressing twelve men. According to Acts 19:1-2, what do we know about these men?
 - a. Knowing they were believers, what did Paul ask them in verse 3?

What was their answer?

3. After they were baptized, Paul laid hands on them. What happened?

4. What do you think prompted Paul to ask these disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit?

5. Use the following verses to explain what happens the moment a person becomes a believer.
 - Romans 8:9

 - Galatians 4:6

 - Ephesians 1:13
 - a. Since all believers receive the Holy Spirit when they believe, what was Paul asking these twelve men?

6. Something caused Paul to sense that these men were not walking in the fullness of the work of the Holy Spirit. What might be some signs or evidences of that?
 - a. What are some signs or evidences of a person who is walking in the fullness of the work of the Holy Spirit?

 - b. What evidence do you see in your own life that shows that you have received the baptism of the Spirit?

Jesus promised that God would give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asked. If you do not see evidence that you have been walking in the fullness of the Spirit take some time now to ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

7. Acts 19:8-10 record Paul going into the synagogue and speaking boldly about the kingdom of God. What was the response of some?
 - a. Where did Paul teach for the next two years?
 - b. What was the result?

JESUS I KNOW, AND PAUL I KNOW; BUT WHO ARE YOU? Read Acts 19:11-19

1. During the time Paul was in Ephesus, God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul. Using Acts 19:12 describe those miracles.
2. How did the evil spirits respond to the Jewish exorcists?
3. In contrast, read Acts 16:16-18 and record the response of the evil spirit to Paul's charge, *I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.*
4. Share from each of the following verses the result of all that was taking place in Ephesus, particularly after the incident with the "unsuccessful" exorcists.
 - Verse 17
 - Verse 18
 - Verse 19

- Verse 20
5. Slowly read the first sentence of verse 19.
 - a. Why did they burn these items?

 - b. What are some things that you have “burned” as a Christian?

THE RIOT AT EPHESUS: Acts 19:21-41

1. As the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing in Ephesus, what two desires began to take hold in Paul's heart?

2. Paul sent Timothy and Erastus on ahead of him into Macedonia, but he stayed on a while longer in Asia. And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way (verse 23). Paul had once reacted similarly to those of the Way. What can we learn about this from Acts 9:1, 2?

3. Scan the story of Demetrius and his attempt to overthrow Paul's ministry and answer the following questions:
 - a. What was the motivation of Demetrius in stirring up opposition to Paul and his ministry? Verses 24,25

 - b. What teaching of Paul was undermining the profitable businesses of these men? Verse 26

 - c. In verse 27, Demetrius gave a further reason for the need to stop Paul. What was his other reason?

 - d. How did the city clerk respond to this concern? Verses 35,36

- e. If this really wasn't a concern, but perhaps only a method of stirring up the people, what was really the only concern of Demetrius?

 - f. From verse, 28, 29, and 32, in a few words, how did the crowd respond to Demetrius?

 - g. How was Paul kept from being harmed in this riot? Verses 30,31

 - h. How was this situation finally resolved?
4. What are your thoughts after studying this event?

GREECE: Read Acts 20:1-6

- 1. Acts 19 recounts the uproar in Ephesus that ceased when the city clerk advised that the complaints be resolved in a lawful assembly. What did Paul do next? Acts 20:1
 - a. According to Acts 19:21, what were Paul's plans?

- 2. It is believed that Paul spent three months in Corinth and the surrounding area. A plot against Paul was revealed to him as he was about to sail to Syria. Rather than take the long sea voyage, Paul decided to return by land through Macedonia. Acts 20:4 mentioned seven men who accompanied Paul. Many of these men are mentioned in subsequent letters as still being with Paul. If you were Paul, what qualities would you look for in those who would accompany you in your travels?

3. Notice the word we in Acts 20:6. Who can we assume joined Paul?

TROAS: Read Acts 20:7-12

1. Paul stayed in Troas for seven days. What day of the week did the disciples come together to break bread?

- a. What day is mentioned that they got together in 1 Corinthians 16:2?

Note: Observing the first day of the week was the common practice of the church.

2. How long did Paul preach on this day? Acts 20:7

- a. That may seem like an unreasonable amount of time. Yet, Paul planned to leave the next day. If you were to leave a group of new believers and knew you wouldn't see them again, what would you want to say to them?

- b. Fatigue or sleepiness is not a sign of a lack of spirituality. What helps you to be more alert in church when you are tired?

- c. As the time went by and the clock ticked away to midnight, what happened to the young man Eutychus?

- d. Describe the way in which Paul ministered to the dead young man.

Challenge: Read the accounts of Elijah and Elisha raising the dead in 1 Kings 17:21-23 and 2 Kings 4:34. Record the similarities.

3. After he had come up they broke bread. Breaking bread is usually a reference to taking communion. This was a regular, frequent practice of the church. What are the benefits of taking communion together as a body of believers?

MILETUS: Acts 20:13-16

1. Those who traveled with Paul temporarily went ahead of him, sailing to Assos, where Paul met them. Luke does not record any events of their visits to any of the cities they arrived at on the way to Miletus. What city are we told that Paul decided to sail past?
 - a. Why did he want to sail past this city?

TEARFUL FAREWELL: Read Acts 20:17-38

1. Although Paul was hurrying to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, he had not forgotten those the Lord had raised up to minister in Ephesus. What did he do?
 - a. Paul described to the elders the manner he always lived among them. Using verses 19-21, 31, 33-35 describe his manner.
2. What can you learn from Paul's example?
2. Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem. What did he not know? Verse 22
 - a.) What did Paul know? Verse 23
3. Record the first phrase of verse 24.
 - a. Using 2Corinthians 4:1-2, 7-11, explain the attitude that enabled Paul to not be moved.
 - b. Describe the attitude called for in Hebrews 12:1-3

- c. What must a believer do to be unmovable?
 - d. What actions/thinking can cause a believer to be moved from their faith?
Note: We cannot be moved from our salvation. But, we can be moved from walking victoriously in Jesus.
4. Record the second phrase of Acts 20:24.
- a. What attitude does a believer have who:
 - Counts her life dear to herself
 - Does not count her life dear to herself
5. Record the third phrase of Acts 20:24.
- a. Describe Paul's attitude as recorded in 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
 - b. Each of our races is different. What is God calling you to do in your race right now?
 - c. Is there anything that you know you are neglecting?
6. According to Acts 20:25-27 what was important to Paul?

7. In Acts 20:28-31, Paul both instructed and warned the Ephesian elders. What were his instructions?
 - a. What was his concern/what did he warn them about?
 - b. How are these instructions and concerns applicable today?

8. What words of the Lord Jesus did Paul tell them to remember?
 - a. Why is it more blessed to give than to receive?

9. Describe Paul's last moments with the Ephesian elders. Acts 20:36-38