



Sermon Discussion Guide

06.11.23 Message | Ryan Wiemelt | Acts 18:24-19:20

Key Scriptures:

Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 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. 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." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 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. 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. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 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. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.



Message Highlights:

- A life with Jesus cannot be merely about finding safety after this life is over; it encompasses much more.
- As we journey in our Christian walk, it is crucial to enter into a life of abiding in God's presence and cultivating a profound relationship with his Son, Jesus.
- The Lord will use whatever you have to offer for the Kingdom so long as your hope and heart are in him.
- Genuine devotion to Jesus goes beyond words or gestures. It demands a transformed life, rooted from within and lived wholeheartedly in Jesus' name.

Conversation Starter:

Did you have a nickname growing up that your family or friends called you by? How have you seen different names have power in your life, especially in terms of Jesus' name?

Discuss the Message:

1. Who helped to train up Apollos in Acts 18?
 - a. Do you relate more to Apollos or Priscilla and Aquila on your faith journey?
 - b. What does Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila's relationship teach us about the power of the intergenerational church as God designed it?
 - c. How can you be intentional in seeking out wise counsel from an experienced Christian or investing in a new Christian's life?
2. What do the seven sons of Sceva say to the evil spirit before it attacks them?
 - a. Has your faith ever been disassociated from Jesus, whether you tried to earn your forgiveness or struggled to accept the Gospel?
 - b. What freedom have you found in making Jesus the central hope and foundation of your faith?
3. What do the miracles performed in the passage bring about in Acts 19:18-20?
 - a. How does the power of Jesus' name result in heart transformation in the text?
 - b. What steps can you take toward making this message a reality for co-workers, family members and friends that you hold dear?

Pray:

Father, we're grateful that a life lived with your Son Jesus changes everything. Thank you for offering us forgiveness, salvation and your presence through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. No matter what situations we find ourselves in, our prayer is that we desire time and relationship with you above all else. May we continue to be open to the redemptive heart transformation that you are making possible in each of us. In your name, amen.