

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
SHAKEN
PART 18: MINISTRY IN EPHEBUS

Tonight, we are moving forward in our study of Acts by looking at the ministry in Ephesus.

[Acts 19:1-7 \(NKJV\)](#)

You remember the preacher Apollos? He came to Ephesus and preached powerfully. But he did not have the full revelation regarding Jesus.

This man was instructed in the way of the Lord ... knowing only the baptism of John—He was instructed, probably, by some disciple of the Baptist, in the whole circle of John's teaching concerning Jesus, but no more: he had yet to learn the new light which the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost had thrown upon the Redeemer's death and resurrection; as appears from Ac 19:2, 3. [Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary](#)

Paul arrives in Ephesus and finds disciples. This is the same word used to describe the disciples of Jesus. It appears that these disciples were at the same point in their relationship with Jesus that Apollos was before meeting Aquila and Priscilla. They are saved but Paul wants to know “did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They had not heard of Christ’s teachings regarding the Holy Spirit. Verse 5 says that they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. While the word is used to describe water baptism it was also used by John the Baptist to describe the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11).

[Acts 19:8-10 \(NKJV\)](#)

As was Paul’s custom, he entered the synagogue and preaches for 3 months. When persecution arises, Paul takes the disciples and makes the school of Tyrannus his headquarters. Nothing definite is known about Tyrannus. But his school was probably a lecture hall. Paul taught there for 2 years and all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord because Ephesus was a commercial center and the temple of the goddess Diana was there so many came through – heard Paul were converted and carried the message back home.

[Acts 19:11-17 \(NKJV\)](#)

Incredible things were happening. Cloth that Paul had used to wipe perspiration or clothes that he had removed in preaching were taken to the diseased and possessed and they were delivered! Makes me think of the case of the woman with the issue of blood who touched Jesus’ garment and was healed. Traveling

Jewish exorcists who cast demons out of people for money like Simon the sorcerer decided to use the name of Jesus as another method. It worked better than a spell or using the name of an archangel. Without a relationship with Jesus, you can't use His name in legal authority. The example given simply magnified Jesus and a relationship with Him.

Acts 19:18-20 (NKJV)

The people in Ephesus – saved by Jesus – turned away from Idol worship and witchcraft. They burned their magic books. Not a few did this. This caused a revolt against the faith which began because of greed. The idol makers of the area were concerned they would lose profits as many were turning from idol worship. A riot ensued which carried over into the theater at Ephesus. Paul's companions were taken into custody. Alexander, a Jew was asked to speak to the crowd.

The fact that he was put forward by the Jews indicates, probably, that they were anxious to guard against the suspicion that they were at all identified with Paul or his companions. If we identify this Alexander with the "coppersmith" of [2Timothy 4:14](#), who wrought so much evil against the Apostle on his third and last visit to Ephesus, we may assume some trade-connection with Demetrius which would give him influence with the crowd of artisans. [*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*](#)

When the crowd found out he was a Jew, they shouted him down and for two hours cried out, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." Diana was believed to be a guardian of Ephesus – having fallen from heaven. Another of her names was Artemis.

Acts 19:35-41 (NKJV)

The city clerk steps forward to speak. In so many words, he sends the crowd home with these words: "The Romans will not care about the cause of this riot. They will simply come to squash it. These men have not broken any law. Break it up before a Roman garrison is dispatched to do so."

Today's Scriptures:

- Acts 19 (NKJV)