

ONE message. people. mission.



Discovering the Power of the Gospel

Acts 19

Main Idea

Discovering the power of the gospel changes everything and that's exactly why some people oppose it.

Overview

- **Discovering the Power of the Gospel (vv. 1-10)**
 - Paul arrives in Ephesus and finds some “disciples” – they are disciples of John the Baptist not Jesus
 - In his leading questions, Paul assumes they are believers and believers have the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - Since they do not have the Spirit, they are not Christians, so Paul baptizes them in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - Paul continually preaches about “The Kingdom” and “The Way” for over 2 years in Ephesus
 - All of Asia begins to hear the gospel message
 - Note Tongues:
 - Some speak in tongues others don't (cf. 1 Cor. 14)
 - In Acts, speaking in tongues seems to confirm the correct gospel message spreading from Jerusalem (Acts 2) to Samaria (Acts 10) to ends of the earth (Acts 19)
- **Discovering the Power of the Gospel Changes Everything (vv. 11-20)**
 - God does ‘extraordinary’ miracles to confirm the gospel message (cf. Hb. 2:3-4)
 - Jewish exorcists show up and try to use the name of Jesus for their own benefit, whereas Paul is allowing God to use and change him for the name of Jesus
 - Many believers in Ephesus publically repented and literally burned their old way of life
 - They began seeing the world through the lens of the gospel and everything changed – Ephesus would never be the same
 - Those who made their living off idol worship began to see their business decline because people were turning from Artemis to Jesus
- **Discovering the Power of the Gospel Changes Everything and that's why Some People Oppose It**
 - Paul's gospel message is not only threatening to cripple Demetrius' business, but it also is challenging the very culture of Ephesus.
 - Demetrius is telling everyone, “Paul is challenging the way we live. Artemis defines us, this is our culture, our history, and Paul is destroying it and us.”
 - People begin to riot, but most don't even know why
 - In God's gracious providence, the town clerk steps in and calms the crowd

- God is generous with his saving grace and jealous for his glory. Even in the face of opposition, God providentially works to ensure the gospel and the church advance

Questions

Discussion starter: Do you think it's true that most people are looking for salvation? What have you seen people turn to for salvation?

1. Read 19:1-10. How does Paul engage these people who are looking for salvation?
2. What are some leading questions we can ask others to get into spiritual conversation?
3. How does the one storyline of the Bible help complete everyone's life narrative?
4. Read 19:11-17. How are the Jewish exorcists treating Jesus?
5. How do we see things in our own lives and/or in culture that treat Jesus the same way?
6. What does it say about God when you treat him like the Jewish exorcists?
7. How did the believers begin to change after being built up by Paul's teaching?
8. Read 19:21-17. Idol worship was a large part of life in Ephesus, how is the same in our city?
9. What are some questions we can ask ourselves to identify idols in our own lives?
10. Why is it only the power of the gospel that is going to help us smash our idols?
11. Read 19:28-41. Why are the people rioting (cf. v. 29, 32)? What does this tell us about why some (if not most) people oppose the gospel?
12. How do we see God's providence at work in this passage? How does that comfort us in our desire to see the gospel advance?

Accountability Question: What idols are in your life that you need to smash with the power of the gospel?