

## **Authentic vs Counterfeit Discipleship (Acts 19:1-20)**

Recap from last week (Acts 18)

- Paul accompanied by Aquila & Priscilla goes to Ephesus
- Paul reasons/debates with the Jews in the synagogue
- Apollos arrives in Ephesus and teaches accurately about Jesus & speaks boldly for Christ but he only knew John's Baptism
- Priscilla & Aquila take him aside and explain the way of God more accurately (discipleship)
- The now equipped Apollos goes to Corinth & refutes the Jews in public and demonstrates that Jesus is the Messiah through the Scriptures

### **Acts 19:1-20**

#### **TWELVE DISCIPLES OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples**

**2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? "**

**"No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."**

**3 "Into what then were you baptized? " he asked them.**

**"Into John's baptism," they replied.**

**4 Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."**

**5 When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. 7 Now there were about twelve men in all.**

#### **IN THE LECTURE HALL OF TYRANNUS**

**8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in**

the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

### **DEMONISM DEFEATED AT EPHESUS**

11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, 12 so that even facecloths or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.

13 Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!" 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. 15 The evil spirit answered them, "I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul — but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded. 17 When this became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, they became afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem.

18 And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, 19 while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed. -- Acts 19:1-20 (CSB)

### **Outline**

**The big takeaway from Acts 19:1-20 is this:**

**Are you an authentic disciple of Jesus?**

**5 questions for you to answer:**

- 1. Have you received the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Do you talk about Jesus and invest in those around you?**
- 3. Is your faith personal to you or is it someone else's?**
- 4. Are you being pruned to grow in holiness?**
- 5. Who's the Hero of your story?**

#### **1. Have you received the Holy Spirit?**

**Acts 19:1-2**

**While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples**

**2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? "**

**"No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."**

- **First question: have they received the Holy Spirit?**
- **Why is this so important?**

**9 You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. -- Romans 8:9 (CSB)**

- **An authentic disciple of Christ has the Holy Spirit living in them**
- **If you have the Spirit of Christ then you belong to Jesus**
- **Does the Spirit live in you?**
- **How can you know?**
- **The Bible tells us those of who have trusted in Jesus for salvation to test ourselves and look at our fruit**

**5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless you fail the test. -- 2 Corinthians 13:5 (CSB)**

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. -- Galatians 5:22-24 (CSB)**

**Back to Acts 19 ("we haven't heard that there is a Holy Spirit")**

**3 "Into what then were you baptized? " he asked them.**

**"Into John's baptism," they replied.**

- **Take note how Paul is engaging in conversational discipleship**
- **Asking questions: taking a spiritual pulse**
- **Take the spiritual pulse of those around you**
- **You can ask questions like: where do you go to church? Or what's the most important thing in your life? What do you believe about Jesus?**
- **Make Jesus the focus of your discipleship conversations**
- **Look at what Paul does in the next verse**

**4 Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."**

- **In verse 4 Paul shows that John is merely a pointer to Jesus**
- **The end goal is Jesus**

**5 When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. 7 Now there were about twelve men in all.**

- **Some denominations will take these verses and make the case that you have to speak in tongues to show that you are truly saved**
- **This is false (speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift among many)**
- **Remember, the book of Acts is historical narrative**
- **Historical narrative vs. doctrinal epistles**

## **2. Do you talk about Jesus and invest in those around you?**

**8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.**

### **-- Acts 19:8-10 (CSB)**

- **Notice how Paul speaks boldly over a period of three months in Acts 19:8**
- **You talk about what you love and you love what you talk about**
- **He speaks up boldly for Christ & His kingdom**
- **Authentic disciples truly love Jesus. If you love Him, you can't stop yourself from talking about Him**
- **What do you talk about most naturally?**
- **Now verse 8 says Paul was "arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God"**
- **The Greek word for "arguing" in verse 8 is:**

*dialégomai* (from [1223](#) /*diá*, "through, from one side across to the other," which intensifies [3004](#) /*légō*, "speaking to a conclusion") – properly, "getting a conclusion across" by exchanging thoughts (logic) – "mingling thought with thought, to ponder (*revolve in the mind*)" (J. Thayer).

[1256](#) /*dialégomai* ("getting a conclusion across") occurs 13 times in the NT, usually of believers exercising "dialectical reasoning." This is the process of *giving and receiving* information with someone to *reach deeper understanding* – a "going back-and-forth" of thoughts and ideas so people can better know the Lord (His word, will). Doing this is perhaps the most telling characteristic of the growing Christian!

- **As believers we are to dialogue back and forth with those around us about Jesus and His kingdom**
- **Listen carefully & respectfully to the other side**

- More listening = more direct application of the gospel
- Example: conversation at a park where they only see God as a God of love & not the Judge
- How can you dialogue about the truth & make Jesus the center of your conversation?
- Now say you're able to do just that by the Holy Spirit's guidance
- You may encounter what Paul did in verse 9
- **some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd,**
- What's our response: get out of there!
- Paul left, but he took the authentic disciples with him (he shepherded them away from false teaching and corruption)
- He continued investing Jesus into the lives around him
- Lecture hall of Tyrannus: continued the dialogue about Christ in a more suitable environment
- Verse 10 says he invested another 2 years there in Ephesus
- Who are you investing in around you?
- Parents, Deut. 6 is clear that we must be investing first and foremost into the lives of our children
- If your single, who can you invest in among your spheres of influence? Roommates? Classmates? Co-workers? Siblings?

### 3. Is your faith personal to you or is it someone else's?

**11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, 12 so that even facecloths or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them.**

**13 Now some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists also attempted to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!" 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, were doing this. 15 The evil spirit answered them, "I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul — but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them, overpowered them all, and prevailed against them, so that they ran out of that house naked and wounded. 17 When this became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, they became afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem. -- Acts 19:11-17 (CSB)**

- What on earth is happening here?
- Notice how the sons of Sceva say, "I command you by the Jesus that Paul preaches!"
- Invoking the name of Jesus without having a personal relationship with Jesus themselves
- The faith was not their own but Paul's faith
- How did that work out for them?
- The evil spirit jumped on them

- The demon revealed that the faith of the sons of Sceva was counterfeit
- Practical question for you this morning:

**Is your faith in Jesus personal or is it someone else's? Has your faith in Jesus become your own?**

- Trials and tests come into our lives to reveal if our faith is authentic or counterfeit
- Many times, children are raised in Christian homes, they go off to college, and then they have little to no vibrancy in their faith and relationship with Jesus
- Their faith was unfortunately only personal to their parents but not to them
- Litmus test for how you can know if your faith in Jesus is personal
  - Do you have frequent and adequate alone time with Jesus?
  - Do you read His word and find yourself growing in love and affection for Him?
  - Do you have times of worship and adoration of the Lord just between you and Jesus?
  - Do you find yourself confessing your own sin to Jesus because you know you have grieved your Savior's heart?
  - Do you enjoy doing acts of love for Jesus? In other words, does your faith take action and bear fruit?

*Review: so far, we've seen an authentic disciple of Jesus has received the Holy Spirit, speaks up about Jesus/invests in others, and has a personal love relationship with Jesus. Fourthly, an authentic disciple of Jesus is being pruned to grow to in holiness.*

#### **4. Are you being pruned to grow in holiness?**

**18 And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, 19 while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed. -- Acts 19:18-20 (CSB)**

- Remember, an authentic disciple of Jesus has received the Holy Spirit
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- He convicts us of sin:

**8 When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 About sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. -- John 16:8-11 (CSB)**

- Notice how the Ephesian believers confess and disclose their secret sins
- Ephesians 2 reveals they were under the influence of Satan or "the ruler of the power of the air"

**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins**

**2 in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. 3 We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also. -- Ephesians 2:1-3 (CSB)**

- **A great place for you to confess your sins is in our discipleship groups**
- **Please see me or Pastor Daniel afterwards if you would like to join one**
- **Now in Acts 19:18-20, not only did they confess their sins but they also burned the very instruments of their sins**
- **This is the mark of true repentance**
- **Jesus, the True Vine, was pruning them**

**"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.**

**2 Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. -- John 15:1-2 (CSB)**



- **What needs to be pruned or removed from your life so you can follow Jesus more fully and unencumbered?**
- **What takes your focus off Jesus?**
- **Is it a TV show? A habit? A relationship?**
- **Whatever it is, surrender it to the Lord, cut it off**
- **Acts 19:19 says that the value of the burned magic books came to a total of 50,000 pieces of silver—that's about 6 million dollars in today's currency**
- **Pruning into holiness is costly, but it's worth it because Jesus is worthy!**
- **Acts 19:20 says that in this way, the word of the Lord spread and prevailed**
- **And this brings us to our fifth & final mark of authentic discipleship**

**5. Who's the Hero of your story?**

- Notice how Luke, the author of Acts, is careful to show us how Jesus is the Hero of this narrative
- Look at the following verses in our text today:

**4 Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."**

**5 When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.**

**11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands,**

**17 When this became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, they became afraid, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem.**

**"held in high esteem"**

**Phonetic Spelling:** (meg-al-oo'-no)

**Definition:** to make or declare great

**Usage:** (a) I enlarge, lengthen, (b) I increase, magnify, extol.

- **Is Jesus the Hero of your story?**
- **An authentic disciple filled with the Holy Spirit will love to make Jesus the Hero of every story**
- **There's just no way around it!**
- **Jesus is so amazing!**
- **John's baptism points us to Jesus**
- **When someone gets baptized today, their baptism points us to Jesus**
- **When a miracle is performed, it's all because of Jesus**
- **When 7 guys are overpowered by a demon and their counterfeit faith is revealed, this points us to Jesus— "and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high esteem."**
- **Application: whenever you tell a story or whenever you hear a story, pay attention to who the Hero is.**
- **Is it Jesus?**
- **When you share your testimony of coming to faith, do you highlight the fact that it was all because of Jesus—He does it all. He gets all the glory!**

**Recap:**

- 1. Have you received the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Do you talk about Jesus and invest in those around you?**
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