



“When the Gospel Meets Different Hearts”

Acts 19:1-20

BIG IDEA: *Faithful gospel witness requires wisdom: patiently point people to Jesus, discern when to move on from hardened resistance, and call people to wholehearted surrender.*

KNOW

- Read Acts 19:1–7. What do Paul’s questions reveal about the spiritual condition of these twelve men? What does this teach us about the difference between having pieces of Christian truth and actually understanding the gospel?
- In verses 4–6, Paul connects what these men already know about John’s baptism to what they still need to know about Jesus. What does this passage teach us about God’s patience with people whose understanding is sincere but still incomplete?
- Read Acts 19:11–20. What contrasts do you see between people trying to use Jesus’ name for spiritual power and people who truly surrender to Jesus as Lord? What does this reveal about the authority and worth of Christ?

FOLLOW

- Pastor Jon said, “*People often possess pieces of Christianity without possessing Christ.*” What religious experiences, habits, or vocabulary can sometimes make someone assume they know Jesus without actually understanding the gospel?
- Paul begins with questions rather than immediately jumping to answers (vs. 2–4). Think of someone in your life who may be a “misinformed seeker.” What question could help you better understand what they actually believe about Jesus, salvation, baptism, or what it means to be right with God?
- Paul spent three months reasoning and persuading before eventually withdrawing from those who became hardened (vv.8–9). Where do you need wisdom to distinguish between someone who is genuinely questioning and someone who is primarily interested in arguing?
- The believers in Ephesus confessed their practices and burned what connected them to their former spiritual lives (vv.18–19). Is there anything in your life that you need to confess, remove, delete, discard, or surrender because it competes with wholehearted devotion to Jesus?

REFLECT

- “*You don’t need a theology degree to introduce somebody to the Jesus who changed your life.*” What fear or feeling of inadequacy keeps you from spiritual conversations? What would faithful courage look like for you this week?
- “*You can move on from the argument without giving up on the person.*” Is there someone you need to stop debating but continue loving, praying for, and leaving the door open to? What would it look like to do that graciously?

- Think of someone who is spiritually curious or entangled in astrology, horoscopes, occult practices, or other spiritual beliefs. How can you avoid merely condemning what they believe and instead show them why Jesus is worthy of their trust and complete surrender?

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

- Where are you most tempted to avoid sharing Jesus because you feel afraid, inadequate, or unsure of what to say?
- Has someone's resistance or hostility made you bitter, argumentative, or tempted to give up praying for them?
- Is there any belief, practice, habit, object, app, source of guidance, or spiritual influence that you know is competing with complete surrender to Jesus?

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Lord, give me patience and wisdom with people who...
- Lord, give me courage to speak about Jesus when I feel...
- Lord, help me know when to keep pursuing and when to...
- Lord, show me anything in my life that I need to surrender by...

MEMORY VERSE:

"In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed." Acts 19:20 (CSB)