

EPHESUS: POWER ENCOUNTERS

Acts 19:8-20

I. Unpacking the Text

A. Disciple Making in Ephesus – Church Planting in Asia (8-10)

1. Ministry in the synagogue – 3 months (Sabbath days)
 - a. Paul's ministry: spoke boldly, reasoning, and persuading
 - b. Paul's message: the _____
2. Opposition from Rejecting Jews: “_____”
3. Teaching daily in the hall of Tyrannus – 2 years
4. Impact: All the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord (Col. 1:3-8)

B. Power Encounters (11-19)

1. Extraordinary Miracles (11-12)
 - a. Nature: Healings and Exorcisms
 - b. Source: _____
 - c. Means:
 - 1) Paul's _____
 - 2) Paul's sweat _____ and work _____
2. Spectacular Failure (13-16)
 - a. The would-be exorcists – the sons of Sceva
 - b. The effort: they tried to invoke the name of Jesus as a source of power
 - c. The reaction of the demon:
 - 1) He _____ the ersatz exorcists.
 - 2) He empowered the man to _____ and chase them away.
3. Dramatic Responses (17-19)
 - a. All the residents of Ephesus (Jews and Greeks) were filled with _____.
 - b. The _____ of the Lord Jesus was extolled.
 - c. Believers _____ of engaging in magic arts
 - 1) They _____ their involvement and divulged their _____.
 - 2) They _____ their books containing incantations.
 - 3) They did this at considerable personal _____.

C. Summary: Prevailing Spread of God's Word (20)

II. Illustrations/Principles for Present-Day Disciples

A. The Power of God

1. The power of God is _____ than any other power.
2. It is not possible to disconnect God's power from God's _____ or God's _____.
 - a. While there can be great value in _____ of faith, there is no inherent power in them apart from faith.
 - b. One cannot "access" God's power for one's own purposes, to further one's own goals. God's power does not exist as a _____ apart from God himself. It cannot be _____ like some kind of electric current from a battery.
 - c. Those who experience the power of God (in a positive way) are those who _____ themselves in relationship to Him as _____. They come back under his _____ through repentance and faith.
3. The power of God is _____ to accomplish his purposes.
 - a. Sometimes God's power is expressed in displays of miraculous transformations in the physical world – e.g. healings and exorcisms. Whenever this happens . . .
 - 1) it serves as a _____ of the authority of the human channel and the truth of his message;
 - 2) it provides a glimpse into the significance and nature of the present and coming _____ of God; and
 - 3) it serves God's purposes in the _____ of the gospel.
 - b. More often God's power is demonstrated in the proclamation of _____ (Acts 19:8-10; Rom 1:16-17) *and* the response of faith and consequent _____ in the lives of believers (Acts 19:17-20; see 1 Pet 3:15; Mat 5:16; 2 Cor 4:7-10).
 - c. Behind every observable advance of the kingdom is the _____ of the _____ (Acts 19:11, 20; see 1 Cor 3:6).

B. Enslavement to/Freedom from Sin

1. In a fallen world, the default position from which sinful people begin is the determination to make life work on their _____. This commitment takes many forms.
2. The quest for autonomy results in delusion and/or enslavement. Of the two, the delusion of "moral uprightness" is the _____ obstacle to restoration to God. Enslavement motivates one to look for _____.
3. The first step in overcoming the delusion/enslavement of sin is conversion = _____ (Acts 26:18).
4. While lifestyle change is not required to become a believer, genuine faith brings one into relationship with the living God who _____ as a result of faith. As the believer encounters God, he experiences _____ of sin as the folly of ungodly practices becomes evident; and he grows in his awareness of and confidence in the _____ of God's reign and God's righteousness. This produces, in turn, a _____ in which areas of former enslavement are abandoned and replaced by _____ (Acts 26:20).
5. One key aspect of freedom from enslavement is _____ (bringing the sin out into the open) and _____ of renunciation.
6. The _____ is always greater than the _____.