

## **Acts 19: PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY CONTINUED**

### **Introduction**

In Acts 18, we saw the beginning of Paul's third missionary journey. His third missionary journey lasted from 53 to 57 A.D. and is found in Acts chapters 18:23-21:14. The journey was a more extended trip than the previous two, and he spent his time shoring up the churches he had planted on his first two journeys. As we will later learn, he spent a significant portion of his third missionary journey in Ephesus, about 2-3 years. During Paul's time in Ephesus, the city went through a great revival. He performed many miracles, signs and wonders and people came to Christ in great number. When the Jews of Ephesus opposed Paul's teaching in the synagogue, where he had boldly preached for three months about the kingdom of God, he and his followers withdrew to the lecture hall of Tyrannus where he reasoned daily for two years.

A few interesting things occurred in Ephesus. Paul met about 12 disciples who had not received the Holy Spirit. Placing his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues[b] and prophesied. Luke must have thought this is a very important story to have included it in his writing.

Another interesting occurrence Luke recorded was that of the Seven Sons of Sceva, who went about casting out demons in the name of the Jesus they did not know. Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them, beating them so that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. I believe this was important to Luke because of its effect. This occurrence led to Jesus being held in high honor so much so that the many people involved in witchcraft brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. The total value of the scrolls came to fifty thousand drachmas (approximately \$4 to 5 million dollars). Also because of this, the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

We also saw how the gospel of Christ marked economic impact. Demetrius the silversmith whipped up opposition against Paul for hurting their booming business related to the popular goddess of fertility, Artemis. These craftsmen made and sold small silver replicas of the goddess and her temple. Paul's preaching about the "Way" of Christ (19:9, 23) and insisting "that gods made with hands are not gods" (19:26) lessened the demand for miniature Artemis shrines.

### **Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Acts 19:1-41**

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

**Think Through the Following Questions**

1. What do you think prompted Paul's question in Acts 19:2, asking if they had receive the Holy Spirit?
2. What can we learn here about Paul's belief and attitude towards the Holy Spirit Baptism?
3. How does this passage answer some of the questions people have about the necessity of Holy Spirit baptism?
4. What type of Baptism had these disciples received? What is the difference between John's baptism?
5. What does the experience of the Seven sons of Sceva teach us about demons and qualifications for casting out demons?
6. How does this chapter challenge us to consider the intersection of faith and cultural traditions?
7. What does the silversmiths' reaction to the Gospel teach us about the potential resistance to faith transformation in a society?

**Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?**

**Application: How do you think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?**