

Small Groups @ TBC

Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: Sep 17th 2017

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Spirit, Word & Riot

Introduction: Chapter 19 contains three episodes, all based in Ephesus. In v1-11, Paul begins to announce the Good News, first to a group of John the Baptists' followers, then in the synagogue ten in a public building. In v13-22 Paul confronts some Jewish exorcists. In v23-41 there is riot caused by a silversmith called Demetrius, who feared that the gospel would result in him losing his livelihood. David's talk focused on the first incident.

Read: Acts 19:1-11

Reflect:

- If you were asked the question that Paul put to the 'disciples' he met in Ephesus, what would you say?
 - What evidence would you offer for the work of the Spirit in your life? (you may like to refer back to David's talk here).
 - If someone felt that they are not as full of the Spirit as they would like to be, what advice would you give them?
- Read v8-10. What seem to you to be Paul's chief concerns here?
 - What would the events described in these verses have cost Paul?
 - Are there any connections with what it might cost us to witness for Jesus?

Read: Acts 19:13-22

Reflect:

- Ephesus was a city rife with superstitions and occult practices.
 - The 'Sons of Sceva' wanted the benefits and power of the name of Jesus, but without having to submit to Jesus as Lord.
 - Are there any ways in which people today (whether in church or outside of it) can want God's blessing but without submitting to Jesus as Lord? How would you counsel such people?
 - What does this passage say about the reality of evil, and the risks of opening oneself to the occult? ('Occult' means 'hidden': the word alerts us to the fact that the real power of occult practices is 'hidden' - but nevertheless, real!).
 - How did the people respond when they saw the emptiness and danger of their magic practices? (18-20).

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:
Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- What is the value of destroying objects that are linked to a former way of life? Does anyone have any personal examples?

Read: Acts 19:23-41

Reflect:

- This is the third time in this chapter that Paul and the Gospel have confronted sources of power. In v8-9 he is confronted by the power of traditional religion; in v13-16 he is confronted by the power of evil spirits; in v25 & 27 it is the power of money and materialism that confronts him. Demetrius sees that if people start following Jesus it will mean a loss of income!
 - In what sense is money a 'power'?
 - How does money exert its power over people's lives today?
 - In what ways does the Gospel (or 'following the way' v9) confront the power of money and materialism in our lives?
 - How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:19-21, 24 dethrone the power of money?
 - How might we put his teaching into practice today?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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