

8. The Gospel & the magic circle

Acts 19:1-41

Introduction

1. The Gospel confronts partial understanding (v1-7)

2. The Gospel confronts false spirituality (v8-22)

3. The Gospel confronts materialism (v23-41)

Growth Group questions

Some of us spoil for a fight, others of us shy away from conflict at all costs. Which are you? Think of a time when a confrontation was unavoidable. Our passage shows us that when the gospel comes to town it confronts our wrong thinking and wrong living - it is unavoidable.

READ Acts 19:1-7: 1. v1 - Trace Paul's journey on a map (cf 18:18-19, 21-23). Where does he go and what does he do? How does this give us an inkling into Paul's priorities?

2. Paul meets some 'disciples'. What do they know, and what don't they know? Think back to Apollos (v18:24-25) - how do these disciples compare and contrast with Apollos? And what do the disciples need to be told (19:4)?

3. Look back to Luke 5:33, 7:18, 11:1 - which group has Luke introduced us to here? So whose disciples do you think they are in Acts 19:1-7? What is Luke showing us about the gospel of Jesus as this group believe and receive the Spirit? Why do you think another Pentecost (Acts 2) happens here in Ephesus

READ Acts 19:8-20: 1. Notice Paul's strategy again in Ephesus. What does he argue about? And what familiar pattern do we see repeated here?

2. How do these verses show us not so much the power of Paul, but the power of Jesus? What other powers are at work in Ephesus? What should this alert us to? What is the gospel of Jesus confronting? How is repentance shown? What does this teach us?

3. What happens to the word of the Lord in this section? How does it go forward? How is that both realistic for us and encouraging?

READ Acts 19:21-41: 1. Notice again Paul's travel plans (follow them on the map). Why does he go this way? what does this tell us about his priorities?

2. The Gospel has changed lives in Ephesus (v17-19). What does that result in (v23-27)? How strongly do people feel about their way of life being upset? (v29-31)? How does the town clerk resolve things (v35-41)? How reassuring would this have been to the early church reading Acts (remember 18:15-16)?

3. Look back over the passage. Why are some confrontations unavoidable? So what would be good to pray for yourself, for our church and for others?