

October 21/22, 2006

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
The Power of Jesus
Acts 19:11-41
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Share encouraging stories you know of people who have been radically changed by the power of Jesus.
2. In what ways have you been changed by the power of Jesus in you?
3. Can you cite any examples of people who appeared to have trusted Jesus as Savior but over the years it's hard to identify any real lasting changes?

Why do you think there has been little to no evident change?

Bible Study

1. Review Acts 19:1-10. Now read Acts 19:11-22. This is what happens when the Holy Spirit comes to town. Look at Mark 5:27-34; 6:56; and Acts 5:15 for similar stories. Why do you think God worked His power through such “extraordinary” means?

Is the means intended to be a common methodology for “miracles” today? Why or why not?

2. What happened to the seven sons of Sceva?

Why did the demons react as they did?

Do you think the demons accomplished their purpose, or did their behavior have the opposite effect according to the text?

In what ways do people today dabble in the spirit world at their peril?

3. What was the evidence that those who believed were truly changed by the power of Jesus?

What was the actual financial cost to these people's “coming, confessing and disclosing their practices?”

Why does Luke feel it necessary to record the financial cost to these people burning their books?

4. Read Acts 19:23-41. What caused Demetrius to stir the crowd into a riot?

In what way does the reaction of the crowd affirm the true life-changing power of Jesus?

Could this possibly explain why it is off limits in our world to persecute or mock anyone in any world religion except Christianity?

Why does Christianity cause people to react as the Ephesian pagans did?

5. In summary of Acts 19, what happens when the Spirit of Jesus comes to town?

Do we see evidence of that power in our own lives?

Application

1. Is there any area of your life where you need to “come, confess and disclose?”

Is there something you need to symbolically “throw in the fire” and burn as a way of saying it’s no longer going to be part of your new life in Jesus?

(Note: You may find it helpful (optional) to share what that area is to help hold you accountable and enlist prayer support.)

2. Do we really believe God has the power to change a community, a school, a business environment?

Are we guilty of underestimating His power to produce change?

3. What should we expect from the “pagans” around us if God does choose to do a significant work?