


**OPENING UP:** The idol makers of Ephesus felt the impact of Christianity because their sales went down. How do you see the Way creating a disturbance in today's society? How could proclaiming the good news about the name of Jesus impact our city in evident ways?


- 1 **In Acts 19, Paul models faithful and persistent evangelism.** Read the following quote that compares how Paul shared the gospel with how many Christians today practice evangelism.

“Our evangelism tends to be too ecclesiastical (inviting people to church), whereas Paul also took the gospel out into the secular world; too emotional (appeals for decision without an adequate basis of understanding), whereas Paul taught, reasoned, and tried to persuade; and too superficial (making brief encounters and expecting quick results), whereas Paul stayed in Ephesus for [more than 2] years, faithfully sowing gospel seed and in due time reaping a harvest.”

 *What stands out to you in that statement? How would you assess what he is saying?*

 *How do John Stott's thoughts challenge or confront you personally? How do you personally need to grow in the kind of evangelism Paul modeled? Take time to pray for each other in the things you share.*

- 2 **Think about Paul's encounter with the disciples in Acts 19:1.** Who were they disciples of? \_\_\_\_\_ v4 These twelve men from Ephesus had “not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” (Acts 19:2) The Word of God met them and prevailed over their ignorance. They didn't have incorrect theology. They had incomplete theology. Think about ways that you may have an incomplete theology or an incomplete practice--especially about the person of the Holy Spirit. What difference would it make in your life if the Holy Spirit was missing? What would change if tomorrow we lived with a greater expectation of the Spirit's nearness, help, and power?

 *What do we learn about the essential presence of the Holy Spirit from Acts 19:1-9? See also Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:9, 14-16, John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12.*

3 **After reasoning with Jews in the Synagogue in Ephesus, he went to proclaim the gospel in a public lecture hall called the Hall of Tyrannus.** What might a “hall of tyrannus” ministry look like today?

🗨️ *What spaces and opportunities are there around you to publicly evangelize or teach the bible in a secular setting? Think about everyday spaces you are already in where people gather, ask big questions, or build community.*

🗨️ *Before you think about how this must be an opportunity for someone else... What passions, skills, or platforms has God given you that could serve as your “Hall of Tyrannus”?*

🗨️ *Pray that God would open your eyes to spiritual openness in unlikely places.*

4 **The story of the sons of Sceva is both bizarre and sobering.** These seven men wanted to mix Jesus into their religious mysticism. They wanted to their own gain rather than the way of salvation. They wanted to use Jesus’ name without *knowing* His name. In what ways are you even subtly in danger of wanting a Jesus you can use, rather than a Jesus who will save? Use the following questions to prayerfully discern your heart:

♥️ *Do you ever treat Jesus like a means to control outcomes—success, comfort, healing, or approval...  
Are you ever tempted to use your faith as a way to look spiritual, be admired, or feel better about yourself...  
Do you ever catch yourself using Jesus to win arguments, prove a point, or feel superior to others...  
Are there ways you’re trying to access spiritual power or blessing through routine or tradition...*

*Where are you tempted to use Jesus to get something from Him instead of seeing Him as your everything?  
What is one way that you need to submit to the name of Jesus rather than use the name of Jesus?*

5 **What can we learn from the story of Ephesian believers burning their magic books?** *What does this account show us about repentance?*

♥️ *What in your life do you try to manage or hide instead of confess and destroy? Why is it hard to let go of certain sins? What would an Acts 19 “book-burning repentance” look like for you?*