



Lesson 26 - Ephesus

Based on Acts 19:1-20

In our last lesson. Paul was returning from his 2nd Missionary Journey. Apollos had gone to Corinth where Paul had planted the seeds of the Gospel.

1) Where did Paul go when he returned home?

Acts 18:18 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of _____ and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

While Apollos was preaching at Corinth, Paul fulfilled his promise to return to Ephesus. He had made a brief visit to Jerusalem and had spent some time at Antioch, the scene of his early labors. Thence he traveled through Asia Minor, visiting the churches which he himself had established, and strengthening the faith of the believers.

In the time of the apostles the western portion of Asia Minor was known as the Roman province of Asia. Ephesus, the capital, was a great commercial center. Its harbor was crowded with shipping, and its streets were thronged with people from every country. Like Corinth, it presented a promising field for missionary effort.

2) Where did Paul end back up at?

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to _____: and finding certain disciples,

On his arrival at Ephesus, Paul found twelve brethren, who, like Apollos, had been disciples of John the Baptist, and like him had gained some knowledge of the mission of Christ. They had not the ability of Apollos, but with the same sincerity and faith they were seeking to spread abroad the knowledge they had received.

3) What did Paul ask them?

Acts 19:2-3 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye _____? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto _____ baptism.

The apostle set before them the great truths that are the foundation of the Christian's hope. He told them of Christ's life on this earth and of His cruel death of shame. He told them how the Lord of life had broken the barriers of the tomb and risen triumphant over death.

4) What did he quote to them?

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All _____ is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and _____ all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

He told them also of Christ's promise to send the Comforter, through whose power mighty signs and wonders would be wrought, and he described how gloriously this promise had been fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.



5) What did Paul follow with?

Acts 19:4-5 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on _____ which should come _____ him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

With deep interest and grateful, wondering joy, the brethren listened to Paul's words. By faith they grasped the wonderful truth of Christ's atoning sacrifice and received Him as their Redeemer. They were then baptized in the name of Jesus.

6) What did Paul do right after they were baptized?

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had _____ his _____ upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.

It was by cherishing a humble, teachable spirit that these men gained the experience that enabled them to go out as workers into the harvest field. Their example presents to Christians a lesson of great value. There are many who make but little progress in the divine life because they are too self-sufficient to occupy the position of learners.

7) What did the Psalmist say about Scripture?

Psalms 119:130 The entrance of thy words giveth _____; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

If the followers of Christ were but earnest seekers after wisdom, they would be led into rich fields of truth as yet wholly unknown to them. He who will give himself fully to God will be guided by the divine hand. He may be lowly and apparently ungifted; yet if with a loving, trusting heart he obeys every intimation of God's will, his powers will be purified, ennobled, energized, and his capabilities will be increased. As he treasures the lessons of divine wisdom, a sacred commission will be entrusted to him; he will be enabled to make his life an honor to God and a blessing to the world.

8) What is God's goal for us?

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the _____ of Christ:

The Author of this spiritual life is unseen, and the exact method by which that life is imparted and sustained, it is beyond the power of human philosophy to explain. Yet the operations of the Spirit are always in harmony with the written word. As in the natural, so in the spiritual world. The natural life is preserved moment by moment by divine power; yet it is not sustained by a direct miracle, but through the use of blessings placed within our reach. So, the spiritual life is sustained by the use of those means that Providence has supplied.

You must eat of the bread of life and drink of the water of salvation. He must watch and pray and work, in all things giving heed to the instructions of God in His word.

9) What did Paul do for the others in Ephesus?

Acts 19:8 And he went into the _____, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.



10) How'd that work out?

Acts 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he _____ from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

As was his custom, Paul had begun his work at Ephesus by preaching in the synagogue of the Jews. He continued to labor there for three months. At first, he met with a favorable reception; but as in other fields, he was soon violently opposed. As they persisted in their rejection of the gospel, the apostle ceased to preach in the synagogue.

Fearing that the faith of the believers would be endangered by continued association with these opposers of the truth, Paul separated from them and gathered the disciples into a distinct body, continuing his public instructions in the school of Tyrannus, a teacher of some note.

11) How did Paul view his God given opportunities?

1 Corinthians 16:9 For a great door and _____ is opened unto me, and there are many _____.

Ephesus was not only the most magnificent, but the most corrupt, of the cities of Asia. Superstition and sensual pleasure held sway over her teeming population. Under the shadow of her temples, criminals of every grade found shelter, and the most degrading vices flourished.

Ephesus was a popular center for the worship of Diana. The fame of the magnificent temple of "***Diana of the Ephesians***" extended throughout all Asia and the world. Its surpassing splendor made it the pride, not only of the city, but of the nation. The idol within the temple was declared by tradition to have fallen from the sky. Upon it were inscribed symbolic characters, which were believed to possess great power. Books had been written by the Ephesians to explain the meaning and use of these symbols.

12) What did God give Paul to overcome these barriers?

Acts 19:10-12 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in _____ heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. And God wrought special _____ by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the _____ spirits went out of them.

These manifestations of supernatural power were far more potent than had ever before been witnessed in Ephesus and were of such a character that they could not be imitated by the skill of the juggler or the enchantments of the sorcerer. As these miracles were wrought in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the people had opportunity to see that the God of heaven was more powerful than the magicians who were worshipers of the goddess Diana.

13) Imitating Paul, what happened in Ephesus?

Acts 19:13-14 Then certain of the vagabond _____, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one _____, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

But the One to whom all the spirits of evil are subject and who had given His servants authority over them, was about to bring still greater shame and defeat upon those who despised and



profaned His holy name. Sorcery had been prohibited by the Mosaic law, on pain of death, yet from time to time it had been secretly practiced by apostate Jews.

14) What happened to them?

Acts 19:15-16 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but _____? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Unmistakable proof was given of the sacredness of the name of Christ, and the peril which they incurred who should invoke it without faith in the divinity of the Saviour's mission.

15) What was the end result of this?

Acts 19:17-18 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and _____ fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was _____. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds.

16) What was their reaction to their new faith?

Acts 19:19-20 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and _____ them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the _____ of _____ and prevailed.

By burning their books on magic, the Ephesian converts showed that the things in which they had once delighted they now abhorred. It was by and through magic that they had especially offended God and imperiled their souls; and it was against magic that they showed such indignation. Thus, they gave evidence of true conversion.

These treatises on divination contained rules and forms of communication with evil spirits. They were the regulations of the worship of Satan, directions for soliciting his help and obtaining information from him. By retaining these books, the disciples would have exposed themselves to temptation; by selling them they would have placed temptation in the way of others. They had renounced the kingdom of darkness, and to destroy its power they did not hesitate at any sacrifice. Thus, truth triumphed over men's prejudices and their love of money.

From Ephesus the news was widely circulated, and a strong impetus was given to the cause of Christ. Long after the apostle himself had finished his course, these scenes lived in the memory of men and were the means of winning converts to the gospel.

17) What was and is Paul's advice for us?

Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather _____ them.

The mystic voices that spoke at Endor and at Ephesus are still by their lying words misleading the children of men. Could the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see evil angels employing all their arts to deceive and to destroy. Wherever an influence is exerted to cause men to forget God, there Satan is exercising his bewitching power. When men yield to his influence, ere they are aware the mind is bewildered and the soul polluted. The apostle's admonition to the Ephesian church should be heeded by the people of God today

Can you see that God's way is better? Do you want to be free from your chains?

When is the time to renounce your sin?