

Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 19:11-20 For Sunday October 16, 2022

Acts 19:11-20 (ESV)

The Sons of Sceva

¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

1. Describe someone you have observed who was powerful – whether physically, spiritually, or economically.
2. What incredible miracles do we see happening in verse 11? How are they being carried out?
3. What was the purpose of the miracles?

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4. What do the exorcists misunderstand about the power of God in verses 13-16? Do you think their motives were pure or self-seeking?

5. Why do you think the humiliation of the exorcists had such a wide-reaching effect (vs. 17-20)? What are people's reactions to what happened with the Sons of Sceva?

6. Why did seeing the humiliation of the Sons of Sceva cause those in Ephesus to "extoll," or hold in high honor, the name of Jesus?

7. In this passage, how do we see the power of Jesus and the Gospel triumphing over evil powers?