



Gospel Multiplication in Ephesus

Acts 19

Sunday, October 1, 2017

Snapshot #3: The Seven Sons of Sceva (19:11-20)

- God was VALIDATING the message and messenger of the Gospel with extraordinary miracles in this strategic, religious city.
- These posers didn't want SALVATION in Jesus, but just to use the POWER of Jesus.
- God used even these posers to MULTIPLY the Gospel.

CHALLENGE: *Are we more interested in KNOWING Jesus or in USING Jesus to get what we really want?*

Snapshot #4: The Burning of Books (19:18-20)

- As people turned to faith in Jesus, they turned AWAY from their magic.
- The burning of their books was an expression of their CONVERSION.
- God used this too to MULTIPLY the Gospel.

CHALLENGE: *Trusting the Gospel always involves REPENTANCE . . . turning away from something: past sins, selfish desires, the world's values.*

Snapshot 5: The Riot of Demetrius the Silversmith (19:21-41)

- The growth of the Gospel was clearly impacting the PROFITS of the idol makers.
- Demetrius disguised his aim as CIVIC/RELIGIOUS pride to stir up the mob.
- God used INFLUENTIAL friends of Paul to keep him from away from the riot.
- God used the town clerk to diffuse the riot and to PROTECT the Gospel.

CHALLENGE: *The Gospel really believed and lived will always be a THREAT and OFFENSE to the world.*

Acts 19 showcases the amazing multiplication of the Gospel through Paul's 3-year outreach in the strategic leading city of Ephesus with 5 quick snapshots . . .

Snapshot #1: Meeting some Disciples of John (19:1-7)

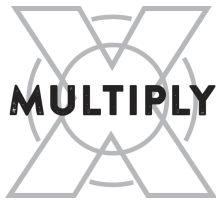
- They knew only half of the Gospel: the need for REPENTANCE.
- They did not yet know the other half of the Gospel: the need to trust the person and work of JESUS.
- When they understood and trusted the whole Gospel, they received the HOLY SPIRIT.
- The signs of PENTECOST are again given to validate the truth of the Gospel and their true conversion in this unique situation.

CHALLENGE: *If we don't get the Gospel RIGHT, we're really not getting the Gospel OUT.*

Snapshot #2: Lecturing in the Hall of Tyrannus (19:8-10)

- Paul, as always, began his outreach in the SYNAGOGUE.
- When opposition arose, Paul moved to a public lecture hall where he engaged in "DIALOGUE EVANGELISM."
- Opposition did not stop Paul, but was an opportunity for FLEXIBILITY and CREATIVITY.

CHALLENGE: *Our mission is to get the Gospel RIGHT and get the Gospel OUT.*



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Connecting Together

WELCOME to Week #1 of Fall Growth Groups! The focus of week 1 is to get to know one another, catch up and connect. So be sure to take time for new introductions. Maybe share “highs and lows” from your Summer.

Here are a few suggestions of questions to ask your group:

Why did you join this group and what are your hopes and expectations?

What has been your Growth Group experience so far at Grace?

What other small groups have you been a part of and how have those been for you?

Once again, these are suggestions to get to know the people in your group in a deeper way. Feel free to come up with your own questions.

Grappling Together

If you have time this first week after you spend time connecting and getting to know one another, you can ask this one question:

What have you learned from our study of the book of Acts so far?

Praying Together

Be sure to close your time praying for:

- Those in your lives that need Jesus
- Your time together as a group this quarter
- Personal needs/requests
- Thanking God for His living and active Word