



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 43 – Acts 19

People — Who is involved?

*Paul preaching to the people of Ephesus
Seven sons of Sceva – exorcists, sons of a priest
Timothy & Erastus – sent by Paul to Macedonia
Demetrius – a silversmith, leader of opposition
Gaius & Aristarchus – Paul’s Greek companions
Alexander – a Jewish speaker in the assembly*

Places — Where does it happen?

*Ephesus – a city on the west coast of Asia
Minor where Paul established a local
church.
The last half of the chapter occurs in the city
theater where the town assembly
met*

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – Apollos had apparently left Ephesus to go to Corinth in the interim. Paul goes to Ephesus. Paul goes “through the upper regions” through the Cayster River Valley rather than through the towns to the south like Colossae and Laodicea.*
- Vs 2 – The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. John had foretold that Christ would baptize with Him. They may mean here that they had not heard that the Holy Spirit had come as promised by John (Lk. 3:16).*
- Vs 4 – John’s baptism was based upon repentance, but it was not done to put a person into Christ. It looked forward to Christ but John’s preaching did not include the fulfilled mission of Jesus.*
- Vs 5 – These who had been baptized into John’s baptism therefore needed to be baptized into Christ.*
- Vs 6 – This is the final mention of tongues in Acts. It has happened three times (Acts 2, 10, & 19). Each to show the acceptance of persons into Christ – the Jews (2), the Gentiles (10), John’s disciples (19).*
- Vs 9 – “The School of Tyrannus” was probably a place where teachers were allowed to instruct students. Tyrannus would likely be the owner or teacher who regularly had students there. Not a synagogue. The Syriac manuscript D adds that Paul taught there from the 5th to the 10th. Probably an addition.*
- Vs 13 – Exorcism almost always calls upon the name of a higher power to dispel the evil spirit.*
- Vs 19 – Bock says that if the silver refers to denarii, its value would be a person’s daily wage for 137 years.*
- Vs 21 – This is first of several references to Paul’s plan to go to Rome (Ac. 20:23; 21:11,13; 23:11; 27:23f)*
- Vs 24 – These may have included both images of Diana (Gr. Artemis) or temple replicas honoring Diana. Molds have been found that were used to form these into coins, etc., as well.*
- Vs 24 – Diana (Roman goddess of fertility) was said to be a daughter of Zeus and Leto, a sister of Apollo.*
- Vs 32 – “Assembly” is the Greek word ekklesia, also translated “church.” Used here of a city meeting.*
- Vs 33 – Alexander appears to have been a well-known Jew who is called upon to defend the Jews in this.*

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

- 1. For salvation from sin, one must be baptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus.”*
- 2. The miracles of the apostles were designed to cause people to call on the name of the Lord.*
- 3. The gospel may be met with strong opposition. Many find even civil venues to oppose Christians.*