

Subject	Lessons from Acts Series	4419
		Acts 19
Title	7 Lessons from Acts 19	
Proposition	To study Acts 19.	
Objective	To consider seven lessons which Acts 19 helps me to consider and appreciate and apply in my own life.	

7 Lessons from Acts 19

Introduction:

1. SUMMARY

- 1) **This reading tells about a near riot at Ephesus.**
 - 1- **Paul's preaching of the pure gospel produced enemies of those who made their living from making silver shrines honoring Diana.**
 - 2- **Demetrius, a silversmith, recognized the consequences of Paul's preaching and was quick to gather others with similar interest to oppose him and his co-workers.**
 - 3- **A great outpouring of emotion and affection for Diana is the result of his efforts.**
 - 4- **Paul wanted to speak to the unruly crowd, but was kept from it.**
- 2) **The Town Clerk calmed the emotions of the people with his message.**
 - 1- **He told the people that there was no reason to become unruly and that if they had any legal case against Paul et.al., they could sue them in court.**
 - 2- **He was determined to gain control of the situation BEFORE Rome sent forces to do so.**

2. OUTLINE

- 1) **At Ephesus, Paul deals with some who were taught wrong (1-7).**
- 2) **Paul teaches in synagogues & schools with great effectiveness (8-10).**
- 3) **Sons of Sceva are overpowered by an evil spirit (11-20).**
- 4) **Paul has a plan to visit Rome (21-22).**
- 5) **Paul's preaching against idolatry has angered the silversmiths (23-28).**
- 6) **There is a demonstration in the Theater (29-34)..**
- 7) **The Town Clerk brings the assembly to order by warning about repercussions from Rome for their riot-like actions proceeding any further (35-41).**

DISCUSSION: Acts 19 Helps me in that it clearly shows that—

I. One CANNOT be taught WRONG and BAPTIZED RIGHT (1-7).

1. **From the previous chapter we learned that Apollos had been teaching a baptism that was no longer in effect.**
 - 1) **When Paul came to Ephesus, he came across some disciples who had been taught wrong about baptism.**
 - 2) **Evidently the discovery came about as Paul asked these 12 disciples about the Holy Spirit.**

- 3) **Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:
- 1- These disciples indicated they knew nothing about the Holy Spirit.
 - 2- Thus, Paul concluded that their teaching had been inaccurate and inadequate.
- 4) In addition to the fact that we are baptized into the NAME of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, part of the work of the apostles was bestowing miraculous gifts upon disciples (1 Cor 12.8-10).
- 1- These gifts served as props or “spiritual scaffolding” until the completed written revelation could be provided.
 - 2- Thus, not to know anything about the Holy Spirit was a strong indication that these disciples had not been taught properly regarding baptism and other matters.
2. Verse 3 indicates that these disciples had been baptized into John the Baptizer’s baptism.
- 1) Since this baptism into John’s baptism would have been 20+ years AFTER Pentecost of Acts 2, this means they had been baptized, based on incorrect teaching and thus their baptism was NOT VALID.
 - 2) The One that John preached was TO COME, actually HAD COME, and these disciples needed to BELIEVE in Him (v. 4).
 - 1- These were honest disciples who wanted to do right and be right, obviously.
 - 2- When they heard Paul, they were baptized.
 - 3- Even though they had been baptized before, they had been baptized in John’s baptism AFTER it had become ineffective.
 - 4- Their need was to be baptized scripturally.
 - 5- They were not REALLY re-baptized, but were simple baptized correctly.
3. After the baptism, Paul laid his hands on them (they now being his brethren), and passed on the miraculous gifts of tongues and prophecy.
4. Today there are many people who have been baptized.
- 1) The problem is they have not been taught correctly BEFORE their baptism.
 - 2) In fact, a great number of people are taught that they do not even need to be baptized, but were saved at the point of faith—FAITH ONLY.
 - 3) This text makes it clear that what a person is taught before he/she is baptized is extremely important.
 - 3) The person who is to be baptized scripturally today, will have to have been taught correctly before that “baptism” is valid!
 - 4) If someone has immersed them in water without properly teaching them about baptism’s purpose, they were never baptized, they simply got wet.

Acts 19 Helps me in that it shows—

II. PATIENCE is REQUIRED to gain fruit for the Lord (8-10).

Acts 19:8-10 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. (9) But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the

multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. (10) And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

1. **Three months in the synagogue(s) at Ephesus seems like a long time when we know that sometimes he was driven out after the second week.**
2. **So long as they were allowing him to SPEAK BOLDLY, disputing and persuading, he was going to keep on keeping on.**
3. **He had patience to endure because he had a sincere love for lost souls— Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**
 - 1) **Paul's HEART'S DESIRE was that the Jews in Ephesus also would become Christians.**
 - 2) **He had the patience to continue putting forth the effort required to accomplish his goal—SAVING THEIR SOULS.**
4. **It seems the quality of patience really was productive in this setting..**
5. **How wonderful that the gospel message was getting scattered throughout Asia!**

Acts 19 Helps me in that it—

III. We need to follow Paul in developing a WORLD VISION (22).

Acts 19:21-22 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. (22) So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

1. **There are FIVE places mentioned in these two verses.**
2. **Paul was obviously interested in the whole world hearing the saving message.**
3. **He took the Great Commission seriously and knew that it was vital that the whole world should hear the gospel.**
4. **He did not confine his efforts and concern in one single location, but had a vision that included the whole world.**
5. **Paul knew there were LOST SOULS everywhere who would remain in that lost condition without the message he had been given to take to them.**
6. **He later instructed Timothy: 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**
 - 1) **He understood well that he could not be everywhere.**
 - 2) **But he had a powerful and encouraging influence upon other people who could go other places.**
7. **You and I are wise to develop the same kind of WORLD VISION Paul had.**

Acts 19 Helps me in that it—

IV. There has to be an element of PERSUASION in successful efforts to evangelize (26).

Acts 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath **persuaded** and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

1. **Are YOU known for your persuasiveness?**
 - 1) **Obviously, Paul was.**
 - 2) **He was highly successful, partly because he was persuasive.**
2. **There are many salesmen who are PERSUASIVE and it provides them a large income.**
3. **Being a persuader sometimes takes on a negative connotation—USED CAR SALESMEN.**
4. **However, it seems obvious to me that Paul was interested in saving lost souls and the fact that he was famous for PERSUADING them to obey the gospel would have pleased him—NOT for any egotistic reason, but that the end goal of SAVING A SOUL requires persuasion!**
5. **An area of study that should be quite fruitful to Christians would be: HOW TO PERSUADE.**
 - 1) **In order to persuade someone to become a Christian by obeying the gospel some degree of persuasion must be exercised.**
 - 2) **A lost soul must first recognize a NEED to change before they will change.**
 - 3) **So an element of persuasion is having some familiarity with the beliefs of the person you are seeking to convert and then being able to point out the false ideas that make up those beliefs.**
 - 4) **All of this will require study of God's word, which is part of our task as Christians—**
1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*
 - 5) **But before any of this persuasion can be successful there will have to be agreement regarding what is to be used as the SOURCE OF AUTHORITY.**
 - 1- **That will have to be THE BIBLE.**
 - 2- **If a person is not willing to settle matters based upon the Bible, the word of God, then they are not really very good candidates TO BE PERSUADED to accept the gospel message.**
6. **Let's realize from this text that Paul was recognized and known for persuading people to obey the gospel AND let's work on how we might be MORE PERSUASIVE in that same field.**

Acts 19 Helps me in that it—

V. Paul DID NOT exclude the wealthy from his prospects list (30-31).

Acts 19:30-31 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. (31) And **certain of the chief of Asia**, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

1. **FIRST: We see the tremendous courage of the Apostle Paul!**
 - 1) Paul was ready to speak to this unruly mob and seek to rescue his companions.
 - 2) Whereas the Jews sought to put forward Alexander to persuade the mob that they had nothing to do with Paul, Paul courageously desired to face them.
2. **We see also that Paul did not exclude the wealthy from his prospect-for-conversion lists!**

- 1) These "chief of Asia," were very wealthy individuals who had close connection with headquarters in Rome.
- 2) Since they were friends of Paul, they did not want to see him injured and prohibited him from going into the Theater.
- 3) Paul obviously looked at men as lost souls whether they were wealthy or poor.
- 4) He simply saw souls.
- 5) Sometimes we might tend to think that a wealthy person would not be interested in studying the Bible with us, but Paul had no such bias against the wealthy and powerful!
 - 1- If we do not have the proper concept of the POWER of the gospel to accomplish the work the Lord intended, we might leave off certain powerful and wealthy people from our PROSPECTS LIST.
 - 2- Each and every soul needs to have the opportunity to hear the saving message and choose to accept it or reject it.
 - 3- It is a HUGE mistake to think that someone, just because they have great wealth and power, is without thoughts of something BETTER.
 - 4- We have that which is BETTER to offer and the powerful and wealthy definitely NEED it!

Acts 19 Helps me in that it—

VI. The Bible DOES contain certain HUMOROUS sections (32).

Acts 19:32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

1. Here is a riotous crowd all shouting and they have assembled themselves in the Theater.
2. But most of them did not even know what the uproar was all about.
3. It was a dangerous situation and required the immediate attention of the Town Clerk to calm the situation.
3. But the biggest part of the ones involved did not even know what was going on, they just wanted to be part of something.
4. The word ASSEMBLY is used here in this verse and is translated from the Greek *ekklesia*, which is often translated by the word CHURCH.
 - 1) We might then wonder, as we assemble for worship, are there any like that majority here?
 - 2) Are there those present who don't really know what is going on?
 - 3) We certainly HOPE that is NOT the case because the thing that is going on here is that which is prescribed in the New Testament.
 - 4) And what is going on here is that which pleases the God of Heaven!

Acts 19 Helps me in that it—

VII. Presents an interesting WORD to study (40).

Acts 19:40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this **concourse**.

1. The word for **CONCOURSE** here is *sustrophes*.

2. **The same word is used in the VERB form in Acts 28:3** And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.
3. **It is a late word for CONSPIRACY— Acts 23:12** And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.
4. **So think of a BUNDLE OF STICKS next time you see a crowd forming to do evil.**
 - 1) **Here, the proconsul was AFRAID of getting into big trouble with Roman authorities because of this gathering.**
 - 2) **His main responsibility is to keep the peace and if he failed, he would lose his job and Rome would send soldiers to take over.**

Conclusion:

1. **Let's keep studying Acts.**
2. **God has greatly blessed us to provide it.**