

Who are You?
Acts 19:11-20

I. Intro

- A. You are Uniquely Gifted in Christ.
- B. You are Empowered in Christ.
- C. You are KNOWN by GOD!
- D. And you are known by the enemy.

II. Text

A. Verses 11-12: Miracles

1. Webster's Definition: an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs
2. Britannica: miracle, extraordinary and astonishing happening that is attributed to the presence and action of an ultimate or divine power.
3. My Definition: A Miracle is something that happens that goes against the laws of nature. (People don't walk on water, except when they do.)

B. Verse 13: From a wrong place

1. The Jewish leaders dabbling in the supernatural wanted to get a piece of the action.
2. They were smart enough to not claim to be servants of Christ, but not smart enough to realize what they were doing.
3. The Enemy of God knows he is powerless in the presence of God, he had no worries here.

C. Verses 14-15: Seven Sons of Sceva

1. The evil spirit pointed out their lack of actual power by asking the question.
2. Spiritual, but not saved

D. Verses 16-17: The name of the LORD JESUS was extolled

1. Extol: praise enthusiastically
2. The man possessed with an evil spirit beat up the seven sons of Sceva.
3. They had no power to fight this battle.
4. It furthered gave credibility to the testimony of Christ.

E. Verses 18-20: Repentance

1. Things change when you meet Christ.
2. They turned from their wickedness and turned to Christ.
3. And this change did not go without a cost.
4. 50 Thousand pieces of silver: "Fifty thousand of silver" is what it says in the Greek. If those were silver denarii, each one was worth a day's wages for a farm worker or other laborer, so a total of about \$5.5 million. If they were silver talents, though, each one was worth a year's wages for that same laborer, so a total of about \$1.5 billion. The New Living Translation, which generally does its research, calls the total "several million dollars," which sounds like they are going with the denarius interpretation. Either way, this was a great deal of money.

III. Points

A. The Power of God

1. Miracles are accomplished by the power of God
2. Miracles are accomplished for the purposes of God
3. Miracles will bring GLORY TO GOD, not man.
4. Do you still believe in the power of God?
 - a) The Power of God has accomplished much, and will continue to accomplish much.
 - b) Ephesians 6:10 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
 - c) Ephesians 1:15-23 15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[f] toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of

revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- d) 2 Peter 1:3-4 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to[c] his own glory and excellence,[d] 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

5. Just in case you were wondering...you're all set.

B. The Response of the Wicked

1. The Evil spirit knew JESUS, had heard of PAUL...but didn't know these imposters, and had no fear of them.
2. Evil spirits respond to Jesus:
 - a) Mark 5:5-13 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. 6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. 7 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, 12 and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." 13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.
 - b) James 2:18-19 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!
3. There is a reverence for God even in the hearts of the wicked, if they really know who they are dealing with.
4. My challenge to you today: Don't focus on the limited power of the enemy, focus on/walk/abide in the God of infinite power.

C. Who Are You?

1. The Evil Spirit asked the sons of Sceva "Who are You?"
 - a) I ask you the same thing today, but from a very different perspective.
 - b) I ask this question:
 - (1) So you will be faced with answering it.
 - (2) So you may come from death to life.
 - (3) So you may grow in faith and confidence
2. If you have come to faith in Christ, you are set apart for HIS WORK!
3. Child of God: The Enemy has no power over you!
4. David's slag: When you ARE, You IS, and the ENEMY has no say!
5. When you ARE, there IS confidence
6. When you are, there IS change
 - a) They burned the things that were evil
 - b) Millions of dollars worth.

- c) If each piece was worth a days wage:
 - (1) 137 years worth of work at 7 days a week.
 - (2) According to the average lifespan of the time, that's almost 3 lifetimes worth of wages
- 7. When you are, there IS peace
- IV. Close
 - A. Those who had been rescued from their evil and wickedness did not see this change as a loss.
 - B. They gained life!