

ACTS: The Return to Ephesus

(Acts 19:1-10)

Whom Have You Believed? (v. 1-7)

- Paul travels through the interior of Asia Minor to reach Ephesus by land
- When he got there, he met 12 men who claimed to be disciples
 - However, they had not received the Holy Spirit, who is present in all true disciples of Jesus
- Upon further investigation it becomes apparent that they are disciples of John the Baptist
 - They had not even heard of the Holy Spirit or even Jesus
- The issue was not that they weren't baptized with the right method or right formulaic name
 - It was that they had not put their trust in Jesus
- But as good disciples of the Baptizer, they were prepared when they were shown the truth
 - They were immediately baptized into the name of Jesus and received the Holy Spirit
 - Speaking in tongues & prophesying being a manifestation of that reality

Proclamation & Resistance (v. 8-10)

- As usual, Paul went first to the synagogue to preach to fellow Jews and God-fearers about Jesus
 - As a rabbinically trained Pharisee, he would have been welcomed warmly
- After 3 months, some of his audience showed themselves to be hard-hearted toward the Gospel
 - Even speaking against 'The Way' publicly
 - This will set up many problems ahead
- Paul takes those who have come to faith in Jesus and they start meeting in the lecture hall of Tyrannus
 - This was a public meeting hall, which would give Paul access to both Jewish and Gentile audiences
- Paul continues to preach and strengthen the church for the next 2 years
 - Because of his efforts and the ministry of new disciples, the whole region hears about Jesus

So What?

- It is essential that our faith is in Jesus, and nothing less than Him.
- Do we have the same commitment to preach the Gospel that Paul and the Ephesian disciples did, so that everyone around us hears about Jesus?

Meditation Verse: *Romans 10:9-10*