**Unstoppable - wk 34 – Do you really want Revival?**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**27 yrs since Jesus’ resurrection - Paul currently in Ephesus.**

**Acts 19:9-10**

**Paul is teaching and sending out missionaries throughout Galatia for over 2 years (52-55AD). Longest recorded stay by Luke of the Apostle Paul. \*\* APU - Apostle Paul University**

**19:11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. (We talked about this last week)**

**I happen to have a hanky here - if you are sick, I'll pass it to you.**

**Some local exorcists thought they would give the “name of Jesus” a try.**

**Sons of Sceva - How a bunch of streakers sparked a revival.**

**Acts 19:13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” (Let’s try what that Paul guy does…) 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. (One possessed man beat up, stripped, and humiliated 7 men – a little funny)**

**This is an incredible contrast here between truth and lies. Between the true power of God and man’s attempt to use God.**

**Stand outs from the Sons of Sceva**

**Know this - There is power in the name of Jesus.**

**Jesus has the power to heal, cast out demons, perform miracles, raise the dead, and most significantly – forgive sins ad save a soul. No other name has that power!**

**Know this - Jesus is not a tool for power.**

**Jesus is not a relic, chant, or good luck charm around your neck. Jesus is not a product, spell, or spirit to call upon when in a jam.**

**God does not operate like that.**

**Some unfortunately see the power of Jesus and want to use it to gain influence and money.**

**Know this - It is a dangerous thing to pretend to know Jesus.**

**There is no real power without a real relationship with Jesus.**

**They lacked the power and influence of the HS in their lives.**

**They were of no concern to Satan – so he assaulted them.**

**I want to be the kind of person the demons know about.**

**Jesus I know, and Ted I know about… but who are you?**

**Know this - You can be religious and still not be a disciple of Jesus.**

**Both the 12 (disciples of John from last wk) and the 7 sons thought they were in a spiritually in a good place, yet neither group were true disciples of Jesus.**

**A religious experience (like baptism and healings) are not the same as being a follower of Jesus.**

**I want to read a passage – I was just going to use a few verses, but it is too powerful to leave the rest out. Paul later writing to Tim in Ephesus.**

**2 Timothy 3:1** **But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. (Tell if this sounds familiar to some toda y) 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.**

**Not the power of miracles which some will claim, but in context it is the power of authentic life change through Christ.**

**6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women (and men – we see this today with media content), burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. (watch more, read more, click more… but still don’t know the truth) 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, (traditionally the names of the false religious leaders in Egypt who tried to do what Moses did) so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. 9 But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.**

**This passage sound shockingly in so many ways like today. Like the sons of Sceva many have a form of godliness but deny the real power of salvation.**

**Acts 19:17 When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls (books of occult spells and practices) together and burned them publicly. (literal book burning) When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. (Revival broke out – this stirred up boldness for other followers)**

**Those last 4 verses tell us what revival really looks.**

**What revival is not…**

* **A scheduled event (conference, service, or seminar).**
* **A worship experience – music, raised hands, tears.**
* **A prayer meeting – emotional filled altars, shouting, declaring.**
* **A full room - even cults can fill up an arena and pack out a church.**

**Many talk about revival, but do not really want true revival – they want experiences, goosebumps, signs, wonders, manifestations, & emotion.**

**Truth is – emotions and experiences are great counterfeits for true spirituality – they can feel like a move from God, but they are often simply emotional fleshly feelings. They are lacking true life change.**

**True revival is the deepest heart cry of true followers of Jesus.**

**Psalm 85:6 “Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?”**

**Psalm 80:19 Restore us, (revive us) O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**Habakkuk 3:2 LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, (some translations say revive it) in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.)**

**We should pray for it – crave it – desire it – but what is it?**

**This is the way - What revival really looks like**

**Acts 19:17-20 - gives a birds eye view of revival.**

**Acts 19:17 When this became known (the power of Jesus) to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.**

* **They feared – God**

**They saw the power of Jesus and the powerlessness of their life against evil. It scared them.**

**They were humbled and broken before God for their sin and inability to save themselves.**

**BTW - If you don’t have Jesus – you need to be concerned. Our obsessions and the enemy can be a lethal cocktail.**

**Isaiah 57:15, “Thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.’”**

**Many are not personally broken and humbled. We often strive to achieve our own goals and plans by our own ability.**

**It begins here. Almighty God, I desperately need you!**

* **They believed - the truth - Acts 19:18 Many of those who believed…**

**What did they believe? the Gospel.**

**Paul preached Jesus is the Christ (promised savior) They believed - The Deity, Death, and resurrection of Jesus for forgiveness of sins.**

**Romans 10:14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?**

**This good news must be told, it must be heard (read), it must be believed.**

* **They confessed - their sin - Acts 19:18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.**

**They acknowledge their offenses – I was wrong.**

**This is brokenness before God.**

**James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

**What we see in churches today are people who raise their voices to heaven in services, then leave and live like hell in their life. They get the “feelies” – But there is no fear of God and no life change.**

* **They repented – their ways - Acts 19:19b When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.**

**Each silver coin was a day’s wage. How much is that – 1 to 5mil. They realize – these spells and superstitious items have no power.**

**They purged sinful areas of their life, no matter the cost.**

**Acts 3:19-20 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus…**

**Many don’t want to turn from their sin, they want the shivers and goosies. The “chuch” experience without true revival.**

**This is known as part 2 of sanctification – explain.**

**A growing submission to Christ’s convictions**

**A daily dying to self – reevaluating life – responding to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to holiness. (Ro 6:4-6, John 14:24-25, Gal 2:20, Matt 16:24-26, 1 Cor 6:16, 15:30-31, Col 2:12, 3:10, Ro 12:1-2, Gal 6)**

**A sign you are a follow of Christ is a desire for holiness.**

**1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, (continually live in it) because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God’s child… (our desires are different, we are convicted of our sin)**

**A true believers desires are changed - one begins to hate sin and love righteousness. Not be sinless, but the pattern of his life will be decreasing in sin and increasing in righteousness. (Gal 5, Ro 6)**

**The Bible says this desire for holiness is motivated out of our love for Jesus (John 14:15, 14:21-23, 15:10, 1 john 2:3, 2 John 1:6)**

* **They hunger - for the truth - Acts 19:19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly.**

**Why did they trash all those books on spells? They wanted the real thing! The word of God. It was time to replace the lies with the truth.**

**This desire for holiness is nurtured by our love for the truth – the word of God (2 Thess. 2:10, 2 Tim 3:15-17)**

**Psalm 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple…**

**Many don’t want to read the word or develop the discipline of knowing and understanding Gods word. They would rather have pep talk sermons and be spoon fed their faith.**

* **They told – the world - Acts 19:20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.**

**The word of the Lord spread and grew.**

**Some have emotional experiences, get the shakes at a conference, service, event, or worship night and leave go to IHOP and clock in for work as if nothing happened. Real revival is when followers of Christ actually tell the world about Jesus.**

**In every event in Acts – when the Spirit of God moved in their lives they turned form Sin and preached the good news with BOLDNESS!**

**Acts 4: 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

**Not to simply builds bridges of relationships, dig water wells, hand out medicine, or help a culture have economic stability – that is humanitarian aid and great vehicles for the gospel – but that is not the great commission.**

**This is the great commission of Jesus – Matthew 28:19-20**

**This the real difference between fake revival and real revival.**

**If I could narrow it down to three things it would be:**

**A Hunger for God’s word - A hunger for holiness - A hunger for the lost**

**It’s when - Souls are won –Disciples are made – and**

**Serving others takes priority.**

**- Do you really want revival – in your life, family, church, community?**

**- You want to bring someone to church for a service, but do you want to Jesus to show up in your workplace or family?**

**- Is there any area of your life that needs to go? A habit, practice, activity, belief… put it on the altar of God! Jesus – pluck it out!**

**The incident with the 7 sons of Sceva set the town on fire – and things got wild – but even revival will have resistance - a riot broke out. This is next week.**