

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral

Lesson 41 “The Aftermath of the Revival in Ephesus”

I. We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century. This is what caused the gospel to spread so rapidly in the first century.

A. Over the last two weeks we have studied the revival in Ephesus which is the greatest revival in the New Testament. This revival occurred between 53 and 55 A.D.

1. Over 100,000 people were saved in this move of God. It began with the teamwork of Paul and Apollos. Paul initially planted some seeds, which Apollos came back and watered, and then Paul watered some more.
2. Eventually Paul taught in the school of Tyrannus and all of Asia Minor heard the word of God. **Acts 19:9-10**. All of Asia heard through the gospel through the outbreak of miracles and this is what the revival into full fruition.
3. Last week we saw how Satan attempted to counterattack through Demetrius the silversmith who became threatened by this move of God because the people no longer wanted to by the silver idols he and the other craftsman made. This threatened their livelihood so they began a riot in Ephesus where they lied about Paul and stirred up the people. **Every move of God will have a counterattack.**
4. The town clerk put down the riot by reminding the people that the Romans hated riots and would deal with the people harshly if they didn't get back in order.

B. Today we are going to look at the aftermath of the revival in Ephesus. This revival led to many salvations, birthed many ministries and ministry leaders (church planters) and led to the planting of many other churches (map of 7 churches in Revelation).

1. Interestingly we find the church in Ephesus became a revival center and did many works for the Lord, but unfortunately in left its first love - **Revelation 2**.
2. Another thing we will find is while all of Asia heard the word of the Lord - **Acts 19:10** by 54 A.D., all of Asia had turned on Paul by 64 A.D. **2 Timothy 1:15** was written to Timothy while he pastored in Ephesus. Paul wrote to deal with practical and doctrinal issues. The doctrinal issues included myths, endless genealogies, legalism, gnosticism, and the resurrection of the dead has passed.
3. How did this happen? How does this happen today in a nation like ours? People stopped being grounded in the word of God and were deceived.

II. The Aftermath of the Revival in Ephesus

A. **Acts 20:1-16 Paul's Travels After the Revival**

1. *Verse 1* Paul went to Macedonia and revisited the churches of Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. He then went to Greece (church in Corinth) and ministered for three months. Why? He's getting people rooted in the word.
2. *Verses 2-6* He then went to Corinth in Greece. The Jews tried to kill him as he set sail for Syria (apparently they were going to murder him on the boat) so he took a land journey back to Macedonia.
3. *Verses 7-12* Paul then comes to Troas (in Asia Minor) and ministers. Paul taught so long Eutychus fell asleep and fell out the third story window. Paul raised him from the dead. His statement life was still in him was a faith statement similar to Jesus's about Lazarus when He told the disciples Lazarus was sleeping.
4. *Verses 13-16* Paul travelled from Troas to Miletus stopping at various cities. Interestingly Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost that he called the Ephesian elders to come to Miletus so he could give them final instruction.

B. Acts 20:17-38 Paul's Instructions to the Ephesian Elders

1. Paul built relationally with people. They knew how he lived (he wasn't in the green room somewhere).
2. His ministry consisted of teaching publicly and house to house. (He wasn't just teaching on stage when he had a big crowd. He'd teach anyone anywhere - demonstrates humility.
3. *Verses 22-24* demonstrate Paul knew what was ahead of him. Many believe he sinned by going back to Jerusalem because he was called to the Gentiles. Stay in your lane! His fate could have been different if he would have obeyed. **The ministry God gave Paul was to the gentiles not Jews.**
4. *Verses 25* Paul believes he won't see them anymore so he is about to give final instructions (similar to Jesus in *Matthew 28*). Last words are really important.
5. *Verses 27-31* Paul said savage wolves would come in and not spare the flock. He also said some of these same elders would speak perverse (twisted) things and draw people away after themselves. ex: This would be the myths, endless genealogies, legalism, gnosticism, and the resurrection of the dead has passed doctrine of Nicolaitans (compromise). **The true heart of ministry is to point people to Jesus not ourselves.** This passage fits with **Jude 1:3-4, 12-13**.
6. *Verse 32* Paul commended them to the grace of God and not a list of rules.
7. *Verse 33-35* Paul reminds them he worked and was a giver, not a taker and encourages them to do likewise. "It's more blessed to give than receive."
8. *Verses 36-38* Paul prays for them and after an emotional scene he departs in the ship for Jerusalem.

III. Conclusion - In spite of all Paul's warnings, all of Asia turned against Paul within 10 years. For all that was accomplished from this revival (100,000 being saved, ministry leaders being raised up, and the 7 churches of Revelation being planted), this move of God didn't achieve all that it was called to achieve. Why? People got deceived because they weren't as rooted as they

should have been in the word of God. Why have we gone from a nation founded on Christian values to a nation where ungodliness is celebrated? As a whole, we have turned from the word.

A. We must make a commitment to get in the word every day and being in church every weekend on Wednesdays if you can. Then obey what you hear.

B. Pray Closing Prayer and Call Up Prayer Team