

LESSONS THIS QUARTER {9}

- 1) 01 Sep 2024.....Acts 13a..... Sent
- 2) 08 Sep.....Acts 13b..... The Task
- 3) 15 Sep.....Acts 14..... The Truth
- 4) 22 Sep.....Acts 15a.....The Gospel
- 5) 29 Sep.....Acts 15b.....Kingdom Work
- 6) 06 Oct.....Acts 16..... Every Opportunity
- 7) 13 Oct.....Acts 17.....Believe
- 8) 20 Oct.....Acts 18..... Together
- 9) 27 Oct.....Acts 19..... Motives**
- 10) 03 Nov.....Acts 20-21..... Commit
- 11) 10 Nov.....Acts 22-25..... Witness
- 12) 17 Nov.....Acts 26-27..... Respond
- 13) 24 Nov.....Acts 28..... Trust

INTRODUCTION

- Satanic and demonic activity is alive and well in our day and age.
- Are we prepared to recognize it, deal with it, and defeat it?
- If not, what would it take to get us there?

Passage	Comments
19:1-8	<p>Ephesus – 3 months here, 3 years on his 3rd Mission trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ephesians were not only missing some crucial facts, but they also missed the Holy Spirit. What does this look like? • Every time the Holy Spirit was given to a new people group, often with evidence of tongues, an Apostle was present (All the Apostles in Acts 2; Peter in Acts 8 & 10; Paul in Acts 19)
19:9-22	<p>Asia – 2 years (...everyone heard the word of God)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv11-12. God worked “extraordinary miracles” by Paul, to include 100% healings by touching his handkerchiefs. These miracles were temporary, for soon, Paul wouldn’t be able to heal Timothy, Trophimus, or Epaphroditus since the Holy Spirit would cease working supernaturally Heb 2:3,4 • vv13-20. The sons of Sceva (Jewish exorcists) found out the hard way not to treat God as a lucky rabbit’s foot or for magical incantations. Yet, unbelievers took notice of the true workings of God that Paul was doing, and many believed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why doesn’t God still perform supernatural wonders today to have similar effect on people? ♦ Consider this. God wants people to believe on Him out of love for who He is and not for what He can give to them

Are Demon-possessed People Easy to Spot?

Though, several demon-possessed cases involved homeless and/or uncontrollable individuals, such as the Gerasene demoniacs who lived in the tombs (**Matt 8:28-34**), others exhibited less disruptive characteristics. We even see evidence of demonically possessed people living with other family members, though, often in less than desirable circumstances. For example:

- **Mark 1:23-26** tells the story of a demoniac in church – possibly someone in good standing in both the synagogue and in the community – after all, he went to church
- **Mark 7:25-30.** A demon-possessed daughter lived at home
- **Mark 9:17-29.** A demon-possessed son lived at home
- **Luke 13:11-17** tells the story of a woman afflicted by Satan for 18 years. She, more than likely, lived in a home.
- **Acts 16:16-19.** The girl with a “spirit of divination” made good money for her clientele, and probably a good living for herself.
- **Acts 19:13-16** tells the story of how the sons of Sceva tried to perform an exorcism on a demon-possessed man who lived in a house, presumably with family members.

Satan and His Demons Have a Lot of Tricks.

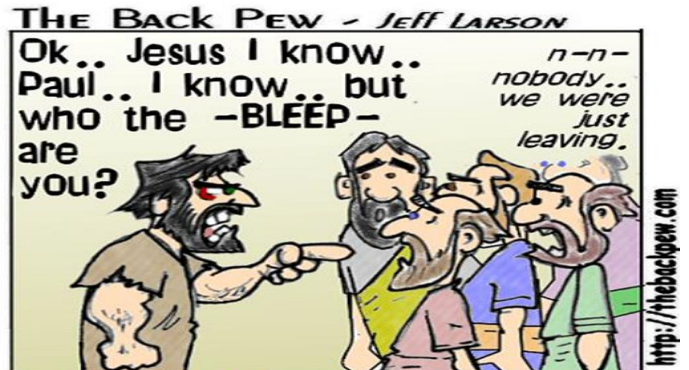
- Not all demon-possessed people are wandering around acting maniacal, and they may not be destitute and homeless.
- Some live with family, go to church, and even make a good living.
- Notice the purpose of satanic affliction or demonic possession was not always for perverted deviance (as noticed in the cases mentioned above), but for mental, socio, and physical anguish to make them fruitless, and virtually useless. Let us be prepared to deal with it.

Passage	Comments
19:23-41	<p>One More Mob</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v23. “...there arose no small disturbance concerning the Way.” This was Luke’s polite way of saying that all Hell was breaking lose over Paul’s effective witnessing • v24. “Demetrius was bringing no little business to the craftsmen.” Again, this was Luke’s polite way to say Demetrius was making tons of money till Paul arrived • v26. Paul’s Impact → “In almost all of Asia,” Paul persuaded many to believe in the one true God, and he was about to crash the economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ People are more concerned about their bank accounts than their spiritual state. How can we stay focused on the true riches God offers, the eternal Bread of Life, than on the temporal food that perishes?.....John 6:27 ♦ Consider this. Do we treasure God’s word more than food (Job 23:12), more than money (Ps 119:127), more than anything else (Ps 73:25)? Do we readily obey God’s word, or do we waffle? IOW, where is our heart?
The Ugly Side of Mobs	<p>Most of the Time Believers Do Not Do Well with Mobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses tangled with mobs of malcontents amongst his own people for 40 years. Sometimes he won, one time he lost bad (Meribah). • Christians have not fared much better: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Stephen got stoned to death; Paul was almost stoned to death ♦ Even Jesus had to escape from a mob of His own church peeps (Luke 4:16-30), only to die at the hands of a mob who shouted at their Redeemer, the King of kings and Lord of lords, “Crucify Him” • Mobs don’t think logically – led by emotions, they want their way NOW. The simple-minded believe everything.....Pr 14:15 • Mobs are often irrational. Caught up in the frenzy – they can react violently (street mobs) and unbiblically (church mobs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Illustrations: Salem witch trials, race riots, pastoral firings • Even in Christian churches, crowds can be spun up by manipulative means, such as by emotional appeals & politicking • Logic goes out the window, and chaos reigns. BUT, remember, God is not the author of confusion.....1Cor 14:23
The Good Side of Mobs	<p>Mob Rule Can Work in Favor of the Believer</p> <p>Sometimes a few sound voices can restore order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah’s Rule of Thumb for dealing with crowds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Don’t Buckle Under PressureJer 26:8-16 • Nehemiah used mob intimidation to make things right. He set up a great assembly against the rich rulers.....Neh 5:16-13 • Church troubles allow good ones to rise to the top.....1Cor 11:19

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- It takes commitment to be sold out to Jesus and to be in His word and in prayer more than into comfort or possessions.
- Are we willing to risk our lives for the Gospel and for God’s people as Aquila and Priscilla did? What would it take to get us there?

NEXT WEEK: Acts 20-21. Life is exciting for those on the front line. Paul was bent on getting to Jerusalem in time for Pentecost (50 days after Passover). While traveling, he made time to visit some old friends and made some new friends, he raised the dead, and he got arrested and beaten. Paul took advantage of every moment in every day.



“...and the demon-possessed man jumped on the sons of Sceva and whooped them so bad they fled out of the house naked and wounded.” **Acts 19:16**