

Lesson 24- Acts 19:1-20

The Power of the Name

In our lesson today, we learn about the power of Jesus' name— Jesus, the name above every name. God the Father Himself named His only Son "Jesus." The angel told Joseph he should name Him Jesus because He would save His people from their sins. Scripture tells us that salvation is by no other name. His name speaks of salvation, of power, and of love. In Jesus' name, there is:

- power to keep His Word pure
- power to equip His messengers
- power over all the "spiritual forces of wickedness."

The ancient Greeks and Romans believed in the power of a name. Exorcists and magicians were popular in their culture and often made a profitable living. They believed one could use the names of supernatural beings that could be persuaded to grant them magical powers for personal gain.

The Book of Ephesians

During his third missionary journey, Paul arrived in Ephesus in 52 A.D. where he taught for more than two years. Ephesus was known for its sorcery, cults, and idolatry. The prevailing power of God's Word was obvious as many magicians and sorcerers confessed Christ as Lord.

Near the end of Paul's life, he wrote a letter to the Ephesians, likely while imprisoned in Rome. The first part of the letter talks about our position in Christ. What does this passage say about how we are made alive and gain eternal salvation?

- 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His *blood*, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His *grace*."
- 2:1,4-5 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, . . . But God, being rich in *mercy*, because of His great *love* with which He loved us, even when we were *dead* in our transgressions, made us *alive* together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)."

The second part of the book talks about the Christian life.

How does Paul begin his instructions to believers in Ephesians 4:1-3?

- "walk in a manner worthy of the *calling* with which you have been called, with all *humility* and *gentleness*, with *patience*, showing tolerance for one another in *love*, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of *peace*."

Into the Word: Acts 19:1-20

1. Upon his arrival in Ephesus in Acts 19:1, Paul met a group of disciples. What were the two things he discovered about them? (vv.2-3)

- They did not know the Holy Spirit
- They were baptized into John's baptism

In John's baptism, the people were truly repenting, receiving the forgiveness of sins. Paul began his teaching asking about the Holy Spirit and their understanding of John's baptism, and then continued to teach them about Jesus, to whom John had pointed.

2. What evidence in verses 5-6 proves that God was at work?

- They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

- *The Holy Spirit came on them*
 - *They began speaking in tongues and prophesying*
3. Twelve men were baptized that day. Paul continued to teach in the synagogue for three months, speaking boldly about the kingdom of God. Satan was also at work. In verse 9, what began to happen?
- *Some were becoming hardened and disobedient against the Gospel*
 - *Others started speaking evil of the Way / against Paul's teaching*

As a result, Paul removed himself from teaching in the synagogue, but he did not stop teaching the believers who followed him to the “school of Tyrannus.” No one is exactly sure what the “school of Tyrannus” was. It may have been a building or simply a place to gather where men would debate and discuss the issues of the day.

4. What indicates that God was at work through Paul's teaching?
- v.10 *All who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, Jews and Greeks*
 - vv.11-12 *God was performing miracles through Paul of healing and removing evil spirits*
5. Some attempted to imitate Paul's ministry and tried to cast out demons “by Jesus whom Paul preaches,” including the seven sons of Sceva (vv.14-16). They did not believe in Jesus and were using His name as part of a magic spell. When they attempted to cast out demons this way, the evil spirit answered back, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” The man possessed with the evil spirit then *attacked all seven of them*, so they had to *run away naked and injured*.
6. This beating affected everyone in the city. All the people heard about it and feared the Lord, and Jesus was being glorified. What were the new believers doing?
- v.18 *They were confessing their previous sinful practices*
 - v.19 *They brought their books of magic and burned them*
7. But there was an even greater power at work through all of this. What was that power? v.20
- *The power of the Name of Jesus proclaimed in God's Word. See also Acts 4:12.*

New Idea: Evil Spirits

Evil spirits exist. The Bible does not tell us much about them, but in both the Old and New Testaments, we can read about their power and their ability to possess people.

Several times Jesus met people possessed by evil spirits, and every time He defeated them. Two of these encounters are recorded in Mark 1:21-28 and Matthew 8:28-34.

The “spiritual forces of wickedness” (Ephesians 6:12) sounds like an intimidating enemy. These evil forces are still very much at work today. How did Paul tell us to be prepared for this enemy? Ephesians 6:13-20

He tells us to put on the whole armor of God, we will be prepared to do battle because our armor is from God, note each piece, some protect us and the sword will allow us to defend ourselves as well as attack our enemies

Memory Verse

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.
Romans 8:37

Extra Memory Challenge

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Discussion Questions

Each teacher should encourage, as much as time permits, discussion and inquiry on the part of students. Not every aspect of the following questions is addressed here, and students may have thoughts related to but not mentioned in this guide. The obligation of the teacher, then, is to understand as deeply as possible the Scriptures that are being discussed, in order to answer as well as possible any questions a student might have.

1. Read Ephesians 6:12-13. Discuss the struggle against “spiritual forces of wickedness.” What are some examples where you might be confronted with this struggle? What help has God given us in this struggle?
[TM Note Ephesians 6:13-20, II Timothy 1:7] Examples might include: through false teaching as well as evil influences that may come through music, art, writing, games and friends.
2. Acts 4:12 and 10:43 state plainly that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Do you believe this? When we believe something, we will talk about it. We are God’s messengers, and He will give us power to witness for Him. Have you had an opportunity to talk about Jesus with your friends? Your family? Share something about one of those experiences.
3. Romans 8 asks us some very direct, important questions that have clear answers:
 - “If God is for us, who is against us?” v.31
 - “Who will separate us from the love of Christ?” v.35

Read Romans 8:37-39. What have we learned so far in Acts that shows how Paul could be so confident? How can you be sure that God will protect and keep you?

- a. *Paul has seen God’s miraculous providence for him in many circumstances: freed from prison, left for dead, stoned, provision through friends*
- b. *The Scriptures clearly teach this truth. Give specific Scripture references. Hebrews 13:5b-6, Psalm 46:1-2, Psalm 121, Students could share examples of when God has protected and kept them.*

Daily Devotions

Sunday:	Ephesians 1:1-14
Monday:	Ephesians 1:15-23
Tuesday:	Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday:	Ephesians 2:11-22
Thursday:	Ephesians 3:14-21
Friday:	Ephesians 4:17-24
Saturday:	Ephesians 4:24-32

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH: THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE AFLC

* Fundamental Principle 12

According to Fundamental Principle 12, a free congregation is not free from responsibility. The congregation has a calling and ministry. It has a work to do. And that work, constrained by the Spirit and motivated by Christian love, is for the salvation of souls and the quickening of spiritual life.

1. Discuss what this quote means: “A congregation cannot exist apart from missions.” (Sverdrup)
A free and living congregation “is ‘constrained’ by the Spirit of God and by the privileges of Christian love to do good and to work for the salvation of souls and the quickening of the spiritual life . . .” (Fundamental Principle 12). Its heart and soul is for missions. It must reach out both at home and abroad. Souls need to be saved. Therefore, to have no desire for evangelism and missions means there is no life. A living congregation wants souls to be saved.

2. In Acts 18, how is this mission described? (vv. 11, 24-28)
As a saved man who knew the Scriptures well, Apollos had a desire to see others come to know Jesus Christ. A congregation of saved souls cannot help but reach out with God’s Word.