

ACTS 12

1. What was the difference between the people of Berea and the people of Thessalonica?

-Most of the Thessalonians rejected Paul's message, but the Bereans listened very well to Paul's message.

-The Bereans also studied the Old Testament to see if Jesus of Nazareth really was the Savior whom God had promised.

2. When we teach others about God, what may be the response?

-Some may reject God's message, but others will want to hear and believe the truth.

3. Even if some people reject God's message, what should we do?

-We should continue to teach God's Word because there will be some people in other places who will want to hear and believe the truth.

4. Why was Paul so sad and troubled as he walked around the city of Athens?

-Because the people of Athens worshiped many different idols.

5. Who are people really worshiping when they worship idols?

-Satan and his demons.

6. After Paul left Athens, to which city did he go?

-To Corinth.

7. What did the Lord tell Paul in Corinth?

-The Lord told Paul not to be afraid, but to stay in Corinth and continue to teach God's Word because many people would believe.

8. Does God know beforehand all who will believe His Word and be saved?

-Yes. God knows everything that will happen before it even happens.

9. Because we do not know who will believe and who will reject God's Word, what must we do?

-We must teach God's Word to every person.

10. While Paul was in Corinth, what two books did God write through him?

-First Thessalonians and Second Thessalonians.

-After Paul's second missionary journey, to where did he go?

-To his home in Antioch.

-Why didn't Paul stay at his home at Antioch?

-Because Paul's heart was to take the Gospel to those who had never heard.

-Should all Christians have the same heart as Paul?

-Yes.

-Even though every Christian may not go to another country to teach the Word of God, we should all pray for and help support those who do go.

-Paul left Antioch once more and began his third missionary journey.

Let's read Acts 18:23

23-After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

-Paul returned to strengthen the churches by reviewing previous truths he had taught and by teaching new truths.

-When we teach, we must review previous truths, and continue teaching new truths from the Word of God.

-God wants all of His children, both men and women, to be able to teach His Word.

-After teaching the disciples in Galatia and Phrygia, Paul came to Ephesus.

Let's read Acts 19:1b

1-Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus.

-When Paul arrived in Ephesus, he first taught in the Jewish synagogue, as was his custom.

Let's read Acts 19:8-10

8-Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

9-But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

10-This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

-When people refused to listen to the Word of God, what did Paul do?

-He left them, and taught others who wanted to listen.

-When we go to a place to teach, if the people refuse to listen, then we can move to another place.

-If we go to a place to teach, and the people want to hear more, then we can stay and continue teaching them.

-In Ephesus, God did many miracles through Paul.

Let's read Acts 19:11-12

11-God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,
12-so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

-Why did God do miracles through Paul and other apostles?

-To begin the work of building the Church of Jesus Christ.

-To help everyone understand that the apostles' teaching was not from man, but from God alone.

-Is God able to do miracles today?

-Yes.

-God has not changed.

-God never changes.

-God is still able to do the same miracles He did through the apostles.

-Are there apostles today like the apostles in the beginning of the Church?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because the Word of God is complete.

-Because the beginning of the Church of Christ is complete.

-God used Paul and the other apostles to begin the building of His Church as well as to complete the Word of God.

-What is a reason why we may not see many miracles today?

-Because the Word of God is complete, if people cannot believe in Christ through the Word of God, then no miracle will help them to believe.

-In Luke 16, this is the truth that the Lord Jesus taught when he told the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

-When the rich man was suffering in hell, he asked Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn his family so that they would not have to live in hell forever.

-What did Abraham reply?

Let's read Luke 16:29-31

29-"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30-"No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31-“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

-In the verses above, what is “Moses and the Prophets”?

-The Word of God.

-What is Jesus saying?

-Jesus is saying that if people have the Word of God and still refuse to believe, then even a miracle of bringing someone back from the dead will not convince them.

-When the Word of God first enters into a new area or a new tribe, God may perform miracles.

-Why would God perform miracles when the Word of God first enters a new area or a new tribe?

-Miracles help the people to understand that the Word of God is true, and that it is not from man, but from God alone.

-One day in Ephesus, some Jews who did not believe in Christ tried to copy Paul and cast out demons in Jesus’ name.

-What happened?

Let’s read Acts 19:13-17

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 Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.”

14-Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15-[One day] the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, 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.

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.

-Did this demon have to obey the Jews who did not believe in Jesus?

-No.

-Why not?

-Because Satan and his demons only have to obey Christ, and Christians who are one with Christ.

-In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we read of the Lord Jesus encountering Satan and driving out demons.

-In the book of Acts, however, we only find four instances where God drove out demons through the

apostles.

-In Acts 5:16, we read that “crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.”

-This verse seems to tell us that it was through most, if not all, of the apostles that God healed and drove out the demons.

-In Acts 8:7, we read that “with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.”

-This was the work of God through Philip the apostle when he was teaching in Samaria.

-In Acts 16:18, during Paul’s second missionary journey and when he was in Philippi, “Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, ‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.”

-This was the work of God through Paul, also an apostle.

-And as we read above in Acts 19:11-12, “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the

evil spirits left them.”

-Did Satan and his demons know that Paul was an apostle?

-Yes.

-Why did the demons have to obey when Paul told them to go out of the people?

-Because Paul was one with the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Satan and his demons also knew that they had to obey Paul when he spoke to them in Jesus’ name.

-Satan and his demons also know us Christians who have believed in Christ, and are one with Him.

-Do Satan and his demons have to obey all Christians today?

-Yes.

-If we are controlled by the Holy Spirit and allow the Lord Jesus to speak through us, Satan and his demons must obey.

-God was teaching the people in Ephesus that Paul was a servant of the Lord Jesus, and that Jesus has power over Satan and all of his demons.

-God was also teaching the people not to disrespect the

name of Jesus nor to use Jesus' name as a charm.

-People who use Jesus' name or the Bible as a charm may be beaten just as the seven Jewish sons of Sceva were beaten.

-Many of the Gentiles living in Ephesus were under Satan's control and practiced witchcraft.

-But when the people believed in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, they renounced their dependence on curses and burned their books in which the curses were written.

Let's read Acts 19:18-20

18-Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.

19-A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. 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.

-Is it a sin for Christians to depend on witchcraft and charms instead of trusting in the Lord Jesus?

-Yes.

-If we are children of God, we must not practice that which the children of Satan do.

-Paul stayed in Ephesus for about two and a half years.

-While Paul was in Ephesus, he heard that there were problems in the church at Corinth.

-As a result, Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians.

-This letter is now a part of the Bible, and is called First Corinthians.

-In Ephesus, God did many miracles and many people believed in the Lord Jesus.

-But Satan and his demons were angry because many people had believed in Christ.

-Therefore, Satan used some of his servants to oppose Paul.

Let's read Acts 19:23-24

23-About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way.

24-A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen.

-The people of Ephesus had built a magnificent temple for their demon Artemis who was also called Diana.

-Who was Demetrius?

-Demetrius was one of many silversmiths in Ephesus who made small silver temples and sold them to those who worshiped Artemis.

-Since Paul had started to teach, fewer and fewer people were worshiping Artemis.

-This meant that Demetrius and the other silversmiths were not able to earn much money by selling the silver temples.

Let's read Acts 19:25-30

25-[Demetrius] called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business.

26-And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all.

27-There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty."

28-When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

29-Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater.

30-Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him.

-While Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, the Christians in Ephesus would not allow him to do so.

-Therefore, Paul decided to leave Ephesus.

Let's read Acts 20:1

1-When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said good-bye and set out for Macedonia.

-Where did Paul go after he left Ephesus?

-First, Paul went to Macedonia.

-In Macedonia, Paul visited the Christians who had believed in Christ during his first visit.

-Paul taught the Christians in Macedonia more of the Word of God, and encouraged them to continue to learn about God.

-While Paul was in Macedonia, it is believed that he

wrote another letter to the church in Corinth.

-This letter is now in the Bible, and is called Second Corinthians.

-After Paul had finished his work in Macedonia, he traveled to Corinth.

-Paul stayed for three months in Corinth, teaching and encouraging the Christians who had believed in Christ during his first visit.

-During Paul's stay in Corinth, he wrote a letter to the church in Rome.

-In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he said that he would first go to Jerusalem, after which he planned to visit them in Rome.

-When it came time to leave Corinth, Paul decided that he would sail to Syria, but he changed his plans when he heard that some Jews wanted to kill him.

-Therefore, Paul traveled back up through Macedonia to Philippi.

Let's read Acts 20:6-7

6-But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others

at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

7-On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

-Paul taught them God's Word until midnight.

-While Paul was teaching, what happened?

Let's read Acts 20:8-12

8-There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting.

9-Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead.

10-Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"

11-Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

12-The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

-It was God through Paul who raised this young man from the dead.

-And Paul is nearing the end of his third missionary journey.