



What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Ephesus wasn't full of atheists—it was full of people who believed in spiritual power but hadn't found anything worth trusting completely yet.
2. The right question isn't "Is there power?" but "Which power is strongest?"—and Acts 19 gives us the answer: Jesus.
3. Fear (reverent awe) is the appropriate response when we truly see Jesus for who He is—not a tool to use, but the Lord to obey.
4. Many believers have already "joined the party" but still have things tucked away from their old life—habits, comforts, backup plans in case Jesus isn't quite enough.
5. Jesus as Lord means: surrender, obedience, daily dying to self, letting Him reshape our identity, and burning what competes with Him for priority.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Luke described Paul's miracles as "extraordinary"? What was God communicating to the Ephesians through these signs?
2. The seven sons of Sceva tried to use Jesus' name without actually knowing Jesus. What's the difference between using Jesus and surrendering to Jesus?
3. We tend to believe one or more of several incorrect views of Jesus:
 - Emergency Contact God (only called in crisis)
 - Vending Machine God (exists to give me what I want)
 - Life Coach God (gives advice I can take or leave)
 - Trophy God (displayed when advantageous)
 - Granddaddy God (affirms everything, confronts nothing)

Which of these have you been most tempted to embrace? Why do you think that particular view is appealing?

4. The believers in Ephesus had already converted but still kept their magic books hidden away. What does it look like to be "in" the church but still holding onto things from your old life?

5. What are you holding on to? Take a moment of silence and ask God to reveal what you might still be holding onto. (You don't have to share if you're not comfortable, but consider what God might be bringing to mind.)
6. Whatever you're unwilling to surrender will eventually compete with Jesus for priority in your life. Have you seen this play out in your own experience or in someone else's?
7. What's the difference between calling out to God in crisis (which is good) and only having a crisis-based relationship with Jesus? How can we tell the difference in our own lives?
8. The Ephesians burned books worth 50,000 pieces of silver (roughly equivalent to 50,000 days' wages). What does this tell us about the cost of true discipleship? What might God be asking you to "burn" that has significant value to you?
9. Jesus being "Lord" means surrender isn't something we did once—it's something we do every day. What would daily surrender look like practically in your life this week?
10. Does your life show that the answer is yes before God even asks the question? What area of your life have you been negotiating with God about instead of simply saying yes?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside 30 minutes this week to prayerfully ask God: "What am I still holding onto that competes with You?" Write down what comes to mind—be honest. Decide on one concrete step to "burn" that thing (delete the app, have the conversation, confess to someone, etc.)
2. Each morning this week, before checking your phone, pray: "Jesus, You are Lord. My answer is yes to whatever You ask today." Journal each evening about where you said "yes" and where you struggled to surrender
3. Identify one specific area where you've been treating Jesus like a vending machine, life coach, or emergency contact. Confess this to someone in your small group or a close friend and ask them to check in with you. Replace that pattern with a new practice (if you only pray in crisis, start a daily prayer habit; if you skip uncomfortable passages, commit to reading them first)
4. Go through your calendar, bank statement, and screen time report. Ask: "If someone only knew me by these three things, would they know Jesus is Lord of my life?" Make one adjustment that better reflects Jesus' lordship.