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WARM UP

Have you ever bought something at a cheap price only to realise that what you bought was not what you expected?

WORD

Read [Acts 19:11-20](#)

Whether it's material things or great ideas, when something of value takes prominence, it's most likely that imitations, fakes and knock-offs start to surface. Such is the case with the sons of Sceva, who saw an opportunity in trying their hand as Jewish exorcists by using the same form they'd seen Paul do by casting out demons in Jesus' name. However, the results were not what they expected.

NOTES

1 Who Are You?

¹¹And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹²so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. ¹³Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

Acts 19:11-15 (ESV)

Interactive recognition comes out of relationship. The closer you are to someone, the easier it becomes to recognise a person amidst a crowd. You'll recognise their nuances, habits and behaviours a lot easier when you know them deeply. The sons of Sceva were not recognised and, therefore, not seen as a threat by the evil spirit, so they had no authority over the demonic principalities.

- How well do you know God? Would you like to know him more? What would you be willing to do to build your relationship with him?

2 Engaged or Huddled

¹⁶And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

Acts 19:16-20 (ESV)

The evil spirit leaps on them because of their lack of power. As word gets around, there is a reverence for God from those who were practicing magic with false gods, and so they burn all of their tools and books. When you have experienced the unquenchable love found in an authentic relationship with God, there is not only a dissatisfaction with anything counterfeit, but there is also a holy fear of God that draws us to glorify him solely in our lives and to forsake other gods.

- How is your relationship with God? Have you ever tried to put your trust in other gods?
- Have you ever tried to find satisfaction in anything apart from God? If you have, how has it worked out for you?

PRAYER

- Identify anything that you've put your trust in to satisfy you fully. Are you willing to pray to let these things go?
- Take the opportunity to repent (turn away from any known areas of idolatry) and receive God's forgiveness.
- Pray to know Jesus deeper in your relationship with him.
- Pray for family, friends and acquaintances who do not yet know Jesus; that they will encounter the authentic love of Christ and enter into a relationship with him.