

Unstoppable Week 3 | The Ephesus Effect

Main Text: Acts 19

Open by saying this: This week, we saw how gospel ministry is not built on isolated moments but is the result of steady, faithful investment over time.

Q 1. *Read verses 1-5.* These disciples that Paul found understood only half of the gospel. They had learned from John to look to the messiah and repent of their sins. But the Christ-centered life is not only repenting for the bad things that we've done but also resting in the redemption that Christ secured. The goal of the gospel is not feeling bad for our sins but walking in forgiveness and the Spirit-filled life. **Has there been a time in your life when you believed this "half-gospel"?**

Q 2. *Read verse 17.* While you likely won't be casting out demons, the way we live our lives and the actions we take either add or subtract from the reputation of Jesus in our community. **Does your life and actions cause "the name of the Lord Jesus to be held in high esteem" in your circles?**

Q 3. *Read verses 8-10.* In most cases, life changing ministry is the result of steady, faithful investment over time. **Do you often think about the long-term ministry of Rush Creek? | What about the long-term ministry of your small group? | How can your endurance and faithfulness today contribute to life change in the future?**

Q 4. *Read verses 18-20.* Those who were converted destroyed and left behind the sinful habits of their old lives. **What old habits, items, or identities do you need to forsake to more faithfully follow Jesus?**

Q 5. *Read verses 23-31.* Materialism is a most enduring form of idolatry. For Christians in Ephesus, repentance looked like destroying books of sorcery and witchcraft, even those which were expensive (v. 19). Faithful converts took a financial loss in order to follow Jesus fully. On the contrary, the silversmiths valued the success of their businesses over the truth of the gospel (v. 25-29) leading them to become violent enemies of the church. **What place does money (or your career) hold in your heart relative to Christ? How do you evaluate this?**

Challenge:

On week one of Unstoppable, we were given cards and challenged to write down the names of three people we are pursuing to share the gospel with. **What is one action you can take this week to bring the gospel to these three? What does intentional, long-term ministry look like here?** Take the time to pray for those people tonight.

Close in Prayer: Father, we are thankful that from before time began you had a plan to rescue sinners. Help us to see past what is right in front of us and have a perspective that sees the long-term impact of our actions. Help us to abandon the idols we cling to so we can glorify you in all we do. Amen.