

Getting a Fear of the Lord

Pastor Ross S. Russell, Church on the Beach, 9-6-20

Text: Acts 19:13-20

Barnes' Notes on the Bible: “**The vagabond Jews** - Greek: Jews going about - περιερχομένων perierchomenōn. The word "vagabond" with us is now commonly used in a bad sense, to denote "a vagrant; a man who has no home; an idle, worthless fellow." The word, however, properly means "one wandering from place to place, without any settled habitation, from whatever cause it may be." Here it denotes "those Jews who wandered from place to place, practicing exorcism."

Exorcists - ἐξορκιστῶν exorkistōn. “This word properly denotes "those who went about pretending to be able to expel evil spirits, or to cure diseases by charms, incantations," etc. The word is derived from ὀρκίζω horkizō, "to bind with an oath." It was applied in this sense, because those who pretended to be able to expel demons used the formula of an oath, or adjured them, to compel them to leave the possessed persons.”

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges: Re: Luke 9:49 . . . “It was common among the Jews to attempt exorcism by many different methods; This unknown person—like the sons of Sceva in Acts 19:13-14, but evidently in a more faithful spirit—had found that the name of Jesus was more powerful. Specimens of Jewish exorcisms are given in the Jewish Book of Jubilees, and in Shabbath, 67.”

- 1. Demons recognize valid authority and fear God.** *Mark 1:23-25, Acts 19:15, James 2:19*
- 2. Authority over demons belongs to Jesus and those whom He gives it.** *Matthew 7:22, Mark 16:17, Luke 8:28-31, 9:49; Acts 19:15, 1 John 4:4*
- 3. Demons are real, powerful and dangerous.** *Luke 8:32, Acts 19:16*

The spiritual realm is real. Demons are real. Angels are real. Going to school in America will lead you to think there is only the physical. When you leave a sanitized education and go around the world, you will find that most people in the world, -especially in tribal areas, believe in spirits. Their belief systems and practices have been developed to protect them from evil spirits, often believed to be ancestral spirits. Witch doctors and medicine men around the world have their ways to influence the spiritual realm and cast out evil spirits. This is only a temporary remedy that requires more witchcraft and costs more money. Only Jesus can truly set us free.

- 4. We need to respect demons and the harm they can bring.** *Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:23-26, Acts 19:16, Jude 1:8-9*

Benson: “This is written for a warning to all those who name the name of Christ, but do not depart from iniquity. The same enemy, that overcomes them with his temptations, will overcome them with his terrors, and their adjuring him in Christ’s name to let them alone, will be no security to them. If we resist the devil by a true and lively faith in Christ, he will flee from us; but if we think to resist him by the bare using of Christ’s name, or any part of his word, as a spell or charm, or by merely professing his religion, he will prevail against us.”

Demons will return seven-fold to a house “unoccupied”. When a demon is cast out, share the Gospel and ask them to accept Christ as Savior to protect them (*1 John 4:4*).

- 5. Fear of the Lord and the devil will lead to repentance and a strengthening of the church.** *Acts 2:38-39, 19:17-18*

6. Repent and discontinue practices with demonic influence. *Acts 19:18-20*

Matthew Henry: “Where there is true sorrow for sin, there will be free confession of sin to God in every prayer and to man whom we have offended, when the case requires it. Surely if the word of God prevailed among us, many lewd, infidel, and wicked books would be burned by their possessors. Will not these Ephesian converts rise up in judgement against professors, who traffic in such works for the sake of gain, or allow themselves to possess them? If we desire to be in earnest in the great work of salvation, every pursuit and enjoyment must be given up which hinders the effect of the gospel upon the mind, or loosens its hold upon the heart.”