

Reaching the Hurting and Lost Living on Mission • Message 5

Bryan Jones

March 15, 2026

Prayer Points for Prayer Time

- Thank God for His love and the new life He gives.
- Ask God to help your life look more like Jesus every day.
- Ask God to show you who you can pray for or encourage this week.

Scripture Reading:

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 the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" 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. 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. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 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. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: "You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. 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 gods made by human hands are no gods at all. 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.”

Acts 19:13-20, 23-27 (NIV)

A. Introduction

(Matthew 28:19-20)

Mormon- Wake up early in the morning... spend two years on mission.

Islam- New York call to prayer... mayor in Richardson.

Jehovah’s Witness- They live on mission... and some where we have made mission optional.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Great commission = Co-mission. God has given us a mission... and that is to bring awakening...

Worldview	Motivation	Response
Exodus	Fear	Flee
Exile	Anger	Fight
Incarnational	Renewal	Love

When we talk about reaching the hurting and lost... we have sort of made this optional... but it’s part of God’s plan for our faith...

God has done it, and He will do it again... each one of these is around 50-70 years which means He is primed to do it again...

And in Acts chapter 19 we witness a great awakening, where God pours out His Spirit in a radical way... and there are two things that spark a move of God... this is a blueprint for awakening... so let’s look at it...

Spiritual awakening happens... it continues... it changes the culture...

B. Living on Mission

1. People who are **SURRENDERED** to the Spirit.

(Acts 19:1-3, 13-16. C/R: Galatians 3:3)

If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."

- A.W. Tozer

He's saying the church doesn't have the operating system... it doesn't have the power of the Acts 2 church because we aren't surrendered fully to the Spirit.

Now Acts 19 has caused a lot of divisions and different interpretations on the Spirit's role in a believer's life... When does the Spirit come into someone's life... is it when they become a Christian or later?

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

Acts 19:1-3 (NIV)

Notice it says disciples... How could a disciple not have the Holy Spirit?

Good news and bad news...

The good news is I don't believe the people mentioned here are believers.

I believe the moment you become a Christian, the Spirit of God comes and lives inside of you. And if you notice here, they called themselves disciples of John... they are Old Testament disciples who haven't understood the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the role of the Spirit.

But the bad news is... there are a lot of Christians who aren't surrendered to the Spirit.

Show fans... one crazy committed... one who is on phone.

You can be around anything and not be transformed by it...

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

Acts 19:13 (NIV)

See, notice they say, *In Jesus whom Paul preaches*. They don't really know Jesus; they aren't filled... which means you can be around the Bible and religious people and still not be transformed...

See, watch what happens to them...

Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"

Acts 19:14-15 (NIV)

- Think about the Pharisees who are filled with thousands of Bible verses... they don't recognize Jesus... but the people who are filled with thousands of demons do... you can be around something and not be transformed by it.
- Watch out that you don't get a religious spirit where you quench the Spirit's fire in your life.

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.

Acts 19:16 (NIV)

- Let me say this... I haven't been in that many fights, but I've been in a few... but I do know this: if you start a fight with your pants on and then you end the fight without pants... you've lost.

They didn't know Jesus; they weren't filled with the Spirit. They thought, *We will have power because we know someone who knows Jesus...* that won't work in your life or in your families lives...

When Charles Cornwallis was getting ready to surrender to George Washington, he sent him a note with the title, *Terms of Surrender*. I love this story because when George Washington got it... he sent back a letter to Cornwallis that just said this... *There are no terms in surrender...*

Listen church, you can't say, *Holy Spirit, come... but don't come and take this relationship.*

Come, but don't ask me to wake up early.

Come, but don't ask me to share my faith.

See, there are no terms in surrender...

(I'll make this quick) I heard a pastor once say this... imagine the worst thing that can happen in the world... Your mother-in-law comes to live with you.. (which if my mother-in-law is watching, this isn't the worst thing in the world; you know I love you!) But for the rest of you, it wouldn't be good... and he made this point: imagine your mother-in-law is living with you...she is living in your house, but have you welcomed her? Have you really received her?

Some of you have the Spirit of God living in you... but you haven't welcomed Him, invited Him in, or made your space and life His space... you haven't received Him...

Think about it...

How foolish can you be? After starting your new lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort.

Galatians 3:3 (NLT)

You can douse the Spirit's fire in your life...and when that happens, you will never operate in the fullness and power of God... you won't have the power. The only way to be victorious in the Christian life is through the Spirit...

2. People who go PUBLIC with their faith.

(Acts 19: 18-20, 26-27, 35)

One of the dangers today is that people feel the need to do PR for Jesus. They try and make Jesus sound more palpable... but Jesus himself said shocking things...

And let me just remind you, the Gospel is foolish to those who are perishing...

Let me remind you... we believe in a virgin birth... a woman, Mary, became pregnant from the Holy Spirit... Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born in a manger in the middle of nowhere, with some barn animals... and then He lived in obscurity for 30 years... then all of a sudden He showed up in His community and was like, *Surprise, I'm God, just been waiting for the right moment to tell everyone...* He assembled some followers who all betrayed Him at his death... He was crucified and killed but miraculously rose from the grave three days later, which no one in all of human history has done but Him... and if you believe in Him now, here in Simpsonville, the Holy Spirit will come and live inside and guide and transform your life...

I'm convinced of two things... it's a crazy story, and its 100% true... my job isn't to convince you of it: it's to be bold in sharing it... and that's your job, too...

See, faith was never meant to be a privatized thing... it was meant to be public... it was meant to be shared. And some people will resist it... but others will be changed.

Ephesus was one of the largest cities of the Roman world. And it was the richest city in the Roman Empire...

In this city was one of the seven wonders of the world. It was a temple to the goddess Artemis. {Picture} The temple was four times bigger than the Parthenon. This temple had 127 columns that were 60 feet high. Artemis was probably the most popular god at that time. And this temple was so secure that the Caesars stored all their gold there.

Now, in the temple was a meteorite that fell from the sky... and it had these lumps on it... they thought the rock, because of its curved nature, was actually her breasts. (Some of you will never look at archaeology the same!) {Picture}

The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?"

Acts 19:35 (NIV)

So, Paul and these Christians start talking and speaking about Jesus, and as a result, this town gets turned upside down...

Listen to what Acts 19 says...

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 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.

Acts 19:18-19 (NIV)

Now that would be the equivalent today of over 7 million dollars...

A silversmith who made idols of Artemis was losing his business because of the way God is working in this culture, and he speaks up about it to his peers in Acts 19 saying...

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 gods made by human hands are no gods at all. 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.

Acts 19:26- 27 (NIV)

And when you speak up for Jesus, some people won't like it.

Listen, I have a friend who is so uncomfortable with conflict he will just start laughing... a few times I was having an intense conversation with him and he just started smiling and laughing... *Bro, what's going on...* and every once in a while, if we are having a heated moment, he starts laughing and it makes me laugh... but literally he just hates conflict, he just starts laughing... I wouldn't advise this tactic with your spouse... she might kill you.

But we must be comfortable with conflict. We don't need to like it... just be comfortable with it.

A little while ago my wife said something that struck me... and it was helpful... I was discouraged because I had some negative feedback on a few things... and I felt like I took a few hits that were unfair... and she said this... *Crowds are fickle... in one hand they hold flowers and the other they hold rocks... don't live for the crowds, live for Jesus.*

This was freeing... you can't please everyone. And, if you try to do that, you won't ever speak up for Jesus.

Paul might not have done it perfectly... but listen to what happened because he did speak up...

In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Acts 19:20 (NIV)

But the reason this happens is because Paul walks into the world and speaks up about the mission of Jesus...

7 sectors of influence

- 1.) Business**
- 2.) Government**
- 3.) Media**
- 4.) Church**
- 5.) Arts and entertainment**
- 6.) Education**
- 7.) Social sector**
- 8.) Neighborhood**

Live out the Sermon on the Mount... but speak up.

See, to love... you have to be willing to speak up and tell others about Jesus.

The other day, someone was delivering an Amazon package, and I just felt like God told me to ask him if I could pray for him... I said, *The Holy Spirit told me I'm supposed to pray for you...* He looks at me and says, *I'm good!* Then I said, *Are you sure?...* He said, *I'm good!* So I said to him as he was leaving, *Just know that God loves you!* The man could not get into his car quick enough.

One of the best things in the world for some of you would be to be rejected... to face what you are most afraid of... because you learn it's not fatal. You can face it. I walked back into my house, and nothing had changed. My kids were still crying, the Cowboys were still bad at football, life was the same... yet I, in some small way, had a little more freedom because I was trapped by fear. You can do this. God has placed you for a reason. I know it's overwhelming but take a first step. Ask someone this week if you can pray for them... that's a first step.