



But Who Are You?

"And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" (Acts 19:15).

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"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed (Acts 19:13-20).

In this study, we delve into a profound narrative from the book of Acts that challenges us to examine our relationship with God. The passage we're focusing on today tells the story of the seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, who attempted to invoke the name of Jesus to cast out evil spirits. But the response they received was unexpected and thought-provoking: "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"

1. The Power of the Name of Jesus: The name of Jesus is powerful and revered. It is not merely a name but a representation of God's authority and presence. Throughout the New Testament, we see the apostles performing miracles in Jesus' name, healing the sick, and casting out demons. The seven sons of Sceva recognised this power but misunderstood its source. They thought they could wield it without a true relationship with Jesus.

2. The Danger of Superficial Faith: The sons of Sceva were attempting to use Jesus' name as a magical formula. They did not have a personal relationship with Jesus; they were merely using His name for their own benefit. This passage serves as a warning against superficial faith. We cannot rely on second-hand knowledge or borrowed faith. Our relationship with Jesus must be personal and genuine.

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3. The Importance of Being Known by God: The response from the evil spirit highlights a crucial point: it is not enough for us to know about Jesus; we must be known by Him. In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus warns that not everyone who calls Him "Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of His Father. Being known by Jesus means living in obedience to Him, walking in His ways, and nurturing a genuine relationship with Him.

4. Demons know those who are indwelt by Christ: The demon questioned the identity of the 7 sons of Sceva because they could not detect the indwelling Christ in them. And this begs the question, do they know you too?

5. The Transformative Power of True Faith: When we have a true and intimate relationship with Jesus, our lives are transformed. The passage concludes with a powerful testimony of the impact of true faith. The people of Ephesus, upon hearing what happened to the sons of Sceva, were seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many believers came forward, confessing their sins and burning their sorcery scrolls. This transformation was the result of genuine faith and repentance.

Conclusion: As we reflect on this passage, let us ask ourselves: Does Jesus know me? Do I have a genuine relationship with Him, or am I merely going through the motions of faith? Let us strive to be known by Jesus, to live in obedience to Him, and to experience the transformative power of true faith. May we, like the believers in Ephesus, hold the name of the Lord Jesus in high honour and live lives that reflect His love and grace.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the power and authority of the name of Jesus. Help us to cultivate a genuine relationship with Him, to live in obedience to Your will, and to be known by You. Transform our lives, Lord, and use us as vessels of Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.