

Anatomy of Revival Part 6

12 “So that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”

The handkerchiefs and aprons carried God’s power to heal and deliver (Mark 5:30, Luke 6:19). Handkerchiefs came from women who attended the meetings during the day. The aprons were work aprons which the men wore from their jobs. Most employment in the city was craftsmen who made statues of Diana (vs. 24). The men came to the meetings in the evening to join their wives. When the Spirit of God moved strongly in the meeting the handkerchiefs and aprons were taken from Paul’s body and delivered to the sick and demon possessed in the city and great healings and deliverance took place. Also, the same anointing delivered from sickness and demons. It did not take a larger anointing for demons. The handkerchiefs were not just for sickness and aprons were not just for demons. It did not even take a bigger piece of cloth for a demon. *The anointing breaks the yoke.*

Revival Affects the Status Quo:

1. Judaism (vs. 9)
2. Exorcism (vs. 13-16)
3. Business (vs. 23-41)

13 “Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.”

The word for *exorcist* means “one who casts out devils by magic formulas and incantations.” These “itinerant” Jews were traveling Jews who cast out demons for money. They became rich by temporarily halting demons in people. These men were revered in the city and thought to be holy men. People did not know they were working in league with Satan himself.

These men were virtually alone in their trade until Paul came along with real power over demons. Apparently, the men attended one of Paul’s meetings and noticed he used the name of “Jesus” over each person. It was decided to add the name of Jesus to their incantations to get business back.

When these men cast out devils before, the result was never permanent. They knew Paul had the greater power and were trying to duplicate and increase it.

14 “Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.”

Sceva was one of the twenty-four ruling priests in the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem. These are his seven sons who are using their family name and religious affiliation to bring in money. Luke has seen and met Sceva and remembered the admonition Jesus gave to him (Luke 11:14-20).

This verse shows demon control in religion. Even the Jewish religion, which quoted the Bible, did not believe in Jesus Christ and had opened themselves up to demon activity all the way to the top, the chief priests.

15 *“And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”*

This was unexpected by the seven sons. They never had a demon speak back to them, especially in an insulting way. The demon knew Jesus and Paul because both were saved. When Paul was born again, he switched from Satan’s kingdom to God’s and every demon knew it. The amazing thing in this verse is the demon did not know the seven sons. *They worked for the demon.* Satan does not know his own, but he does know God’s. The only way to be known in the kingdom of Satan is to become born again. You are then on Satan’s hate list and God’s love list (the book of life).

God knows His own, but He does not know Satan’s. One day the seven sons of Sceva will stand before the Lord in judgment and say, “didn’t we cast out devils in your name?” Jesus will say to them “depart from me you workers of iniquity. I never knew you” (Matthew 7:22). Jesus calls His sheep by name (John 10:3).

16 *“Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”*

This is the supernatural power of one demon. One man leaped on seven and overcame the strength of seven. One man prevailed against seven and tore their clothes off before they could reach the front door of the house.