

HELEN SANDERS

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AUTHORITY THROUGH THE NAME OF JESUS

The story in Acts chapter 19 tells us they had seen the miracles that the Apostle Paul had done. They watched him cast out demons and saw people healed and evil spirits depart out of people. Who were they? They were the seven sons of Sceva, who was a chief among the Jewish priests. These “sons” should have known the ways of the Jews, but Acts 19:13 says they were vagabond Jews, which means they had forsaken the true Jewish faith and were witch doctors.

In Acts 19:13 it says, ***“We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.”*** This meant that they were trying to take charge over an evil spirit in a person. They did not personally know Jesus or Paul. They were counterfeits. They must have thought if they can do it, we can do it. I am sure they had no idea what they were getting into. Little did they know that demonic spirits are well aware of those that truly have authority.

After adjuring them, the evil spirit spoke in verse 15, ***“...Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?”*** The evil spirit knew they had no authority, and in verse 16 it says, ***“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 the house naked and wounded.”***

They were counterfeit ministers operating in counterfeit gifts. They were exorcists, but they didn’t know the person that truly gives us authority. It was their mistake. You can’t use the name of Jesus if you don’t know him personally. But we that know Jesus gave us all authority over demons, sickness, weather, through his name.

Verse 17 goes on to say that what happened to these men ***“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.”*** Those watching these events saw the truth. They saw the “real” in operation through Paul and the counterfeit in operation through these seven sons of Sceva. Remember, the demon spoke saying ***“I know”*** Jesus and Paul.

As Christians we should all be walking in the authority of the name of Jesus. Think what would happen in your city if you started using the name of Jesus against storms, demons and more. It would start a mighty move of God. It did at Ephesus, and it will where you live too when you know Jesus personally and the authority that He has given you.