



## Week 22: The Gospel And The gods

The gospel doesn't simply add Jesus to our lives—it dethrones every rival god. As the power of God collides with the gods of culture in Ephesus, counterfeit spirituality is exposed, believers repent, idols lose their grip, and a city begins to change. The same is true today. Whatever competes for our affection, identity, security, or worship will ultimately leave us trapped and empty. But when Jesus takes His rightful place on the throne of our lives, we experience the freedom, joy, and purpose that can only be found in Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Acts 19:11-29a.** The seven sons of Sceva wanted the power of Jesus without a relationship with Jesus. Why do you think people are often drawn to the benefits of faith without fully surrendering to Jesus as Lord? How can believers fall into that trap as well?
2. Shawn said, "Followers of Jesus aren't called to make peace with sin; we're called to make war with it." What's the difference between struggling with sin and making peace with sin? How can you tell when you've moved from fighting sin to justifying it?
3. The Ephesian believers burned their books because they were leading them away from Jesus. This is what sin does. What's one thing in your life that competes for your affection, trust, or obedience to Jesus? What would it look like to "burn that book"?
4. Demetrius was upset because the gospel threatened both his income and his identity. Why do you think people often resist change when the gospel confronts something they deeply value? What modern "gods" do you find most difficult to surrender?
5. The gospel didn't just change individuals in Ephesus—it began to transform an entire city. How have you seen a person's faith impact their family, workplace, friendships, or community? What would it look like for the gospel to have that kind of influence through your life?