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## The One and Only

*By Bryan Trotter on March 30, 2021*

### **TODAY'S READING:** Acts 19

I have personally always liked this passage from Acts 19. I have often thought of it as funny. I find humor throughout the Bible whether the humor is intended or not.

In Acts 19, we read about God doing extraordinary miracles through Paul. Then the focus turns to a few traveling Jewish exorcists. These men foolishly decide to invoke the name of Jesus over those who had evil spirits. The evil spirit replies that he knows Jesus and recognizes Paul, but he does not know them. The result of this exchange is the Jewish exorcists fleeing beaten, battered and naked. These men were beat down for pretending to be something they were not, followers of Christ.

Have you ever pretended to be something you are not? We all have. It could be embellishing our achievements or status to make us look more successful. It could be bragging on the accomplishments of our children so it reflects positively on our parenting. The list of ways that we do not present our true selves could go on and on. We can look in the mirror and feel like a fraud. Either way, we must confront the reality of who we really are or choose to push those feelings down so we do not have to deal with them.

The story of the Sons of Sceva is a cautionary tale to us. When we choose to pretend to be someone we are not, it can leave us feeling battered and beaten. However, we have something that the Sons of Sceva did not have. We are children of the King of the Universe! The same power that raised Christ from the grave dwells in us (Romans 8:11). We do not have to pretend to be someone we are not. There is only one you, and God has called you from darkness into light to do what only you can do so He will receive glory and praise. "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2). If you are going to be an imitator, be an imitator of Christ not anything of this world. The things of this world are fleeting and will pass away. Make an impact where you are today by being the person God has called you to be and be conformed to the image of Jesus. You are one of kind. Celebrate it today and walk in assurance of who God has called you to be!

**TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Corinthians 1**

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