

Acts 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

Analysis

'There were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.' Luke's specific naming shows this wasn't anonymous folklore but documented history. That a chief priest's sons practiced exorcism reveals Judaism's syncretism with paganism. Even religious privilege doesn't guarantee spiritual authority.

Historical Context

Sceva's identity as 'chief priest' (Greek 'archiereus') is uncertain - he may have claimed this title without legitimate authority, or represented one of Judaism's prominent priestly families. His sons' occupation shows religious commerce exploitation.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does religious pedigree fail to produce spiritual authority?
2. What happens when people commercialize spiritual ministry?
3. How can we avoid treating Christianity as a business or technique?

Interlinear Text

ἦσαν	δέ	τινές	υἱοὶ	Σκευᾶ	Ἰουδαίου
there were	And	^{G5100}	sons	of one Sceva	a Jew
G2258	G1161		G5207	G4630	G2453
ἀρχιερέως	ἐπτά	οἱ	τοῦτο	ποιοῦντες	
and chief of the priests	seven	^{G3588}	so	which did	
G749	G2033		G5124	G4160	

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