



Fools, Mules & Horses: Am I Teachable? Acts 19

Icebreaker:

Describe a time when stubbornness got you into trouble.

Prayer Starter:

Read the following psalm together, then open with prayer.

*“Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end.
Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.
Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.*

Psalm 119:33-35

Discussion Questions:

Teachability is one of the keys to growing in my faith. In a recent study of Acts 19, we identified three different groups of people whom Paul encounters in Ephesus, which represent different levels of ‘teachability’.

The Fools

These are people who take the parts of Christian truth that suits them and discard the rest. They’ll have *some* of the faith.

1. Read Acts 19:11-16. What made the sons of Sceva fools?
2. Thomas Jefferson famously went through the New Testament gospels and cut out with a pair of scissors all the passages that he didn’t like. People still do this today. What would you say to someone you came across who did this? Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 4:3-4, then discuss.

The Mules

These are people who stubbornly reject all that Christianity teaches. They’ll have *none* of the faith.

3. Read Acts 19:8-10 and 19:23-28. What made these people mules?

4. Stubbornness is not just something unbelievers show. How can Christians act like mules? Read Psalm 81:8-16. Look for answers to these four questions:

How are God's people behaving?

What would God love to do with his people if he could?

Instead, what will God be forced to do with them?

What lessons are in these verses for me?

The Horses

There's nothing as majestic as a horse that is fully trained. A disciple who is teachable and trainable, who wants all the Jesus has for them, is like that horse.

5. Read Acts 19:1-7 and 19:18-20. What made these people horses?

7. How can you spot a horse? People who are teachable show the following traits:

Trait #1: They show a readiness to please God.

What would it take for me to fully pray Psalm 40:8 and 119:160 and mean it?

Trait #2: They show honesty about the sin that's in their heart.

What would it take for me to fully pray Psalm 86:11 and 139:23-24 and mean it?

Trait #3: They know they need the Lord's mercy and grace if they are ever to change.

What would it take for me to fully pray Psalm 143:10 and mean it?

Write out 2-3 sentences in answer to this question: Am I teachable?