



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High
Title: The Riot at Ephesus
Lesson: 101

Text: Acts 19:21-41
Date: May 11, 2025

The Devil was working overtime in Ephesus

Acts 19:9 - he attacked Paul by **verbal slander**

Acts 19:13 - he worked thru **demons**

In Acts 19:21-41 - he worked through **false religion**

Acts 19:21–22 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

Paul’s itinerary is puzzling.

He explained why he stayed in Ephesus.

1 Corinthians 16:8–9 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; 9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way.

“About that time”

“the Way”

24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

“Temple of Artemis”

“silver shrines”

“Demetrius”

25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business.

26 “You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

This is a key verse for a coupe of reasons:

1. Demetrius revealed the true motive for his concern which was money.
2. Demetrius revealed a detail about Paul's preaching.

27 "Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence."

28 When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

A few things about Mob mentality:

1. There is always an _____.

2. There is mindless _____.

29a The city was filled with the confusion,

32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.

3. Their rage that turns into

29b and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him. 31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

"Asiarchs"

Sometimes _____ is better than foolish faith.

32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.

33 Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly.

4. There is _____.

34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Should we be convicted that false religion has more zeal than most Christians?

35 After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven?”

“town clerk”

36 “So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash.

37 “For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.

38 “So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against one another. 39 “But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.

40 “For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today’s events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering.”

41 After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

Implications

1. Why was the gospel at Ephesus so successful?

**A. An uncompromising _____
to the gospel.**

Acts 20:27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

B. A _____ church

**We impact culture not by human means but by
_____ lives.**

2. _____ is no match for the gospel.

In **Jerusalem** - opposition came from **organized religion**

In **Antioch** - opposition came from **prejudice & envy**

In **Lystra** - opposition came from **pagans**

In **Philippi** - opposition came from the **demonic realm**

In **Thessalonica** - opposition came from an **unruly mob**
urged on by Jealous religious leaders

In **Athens** - opposition came from **worldly philosophy**

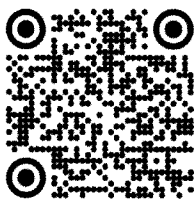
In **Corinth** - opposition came from **Judaism**

3. **God accomplishes His will not only through believers
but also through _____.**

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is like channels of water
in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Discussion Guide

1. We learned that Christianity should have an effect on the world. What might that look like and why don't we see more evidence of that today?
2. What does it mean that "sometimes reason is better than foolish faith?"
3. What did we learn about mobs from today's lesson?
4. Why is it important we understand that God's will comes not only through believers but also through unbelievers?
5. What was the one big takeaway for you today?



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ANSWERS: agitator, confusion, violence, reason, partiality, devotion, purified, transformed, Satan, unbelievers