

FROM BELIEF TO

BOLDNESS

Aaron Cano

Acts 19:21-41

MESSAGE NOTES

Thursday, July 9

Sunday, July 12

Introduction:

Acts 19:21-41

²¹Now 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."

²²And having sent into Maacedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³About that time, there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; ²⁵these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. ²⁶You 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..."

Following the crowd to protect our comfort is in direct contradiction to Romans 12. We are not called to just buy the souvenirs and blend in with the influencers and the culture around us; we are called to disrupt it.

²⁷"Not only is there danger that is trade of ours will 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 be dethroned from her magnificence."

Your identity is found in Christ, not in slavery to the trends around you.

²⁸When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out saying, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹The city was filled with confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. ³⁰And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would

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not let him. ³¹Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

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³²So the, 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. ³³Some of the crowd concluded that 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. ³⁴But 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!"

The devil loves to use the deafening roar of the culture to intimidate believers and strike fear into the hearts of the church.

We easily get sucked into an echo chamber filled with voices that just agree with us, and we completely forget our actual purpose: to be in a relationship with Jesus and share His good news.

³⁵After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, "Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven? ³⁶So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash. ³⁷For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess.

³⁸So 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. ³⁹But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.

⁴⁰For 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."

⁴¹After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

Rational objective people looked at the character of the Christians and saw absolutely nothing to fear.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

Book of Acts: From Belief to Boldness
GateWay Church of Visalia, Aaron Cano
Acts 19:21-41, July 9th and 12th, 2026
Disrupting the Status Quo

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is the most chaotic crowd or event you have ever been caught in? *(Bonus question: What is your go-to beverage? Are you team "dirty soda," (soda with cream) "chai tea latte," or something else?)*

Read Aloud: Acts 19:21-41

1. The Echo Chamber- Where do you see "echo chambers" or mob mentality most often in our culture today, and why is it so easy to get swept up in them?
2. The Economy of Idolatry- What are some modern "shrines" that our culture invests its time and money into? How can you tell when a good thing has become an idol in your own life?
3. Disrupting Comfort Zones- Our first instinct is usually to stay comfortable. Share a time when you clearly felt God prompting you to step out of your comfort zone to share your faith or speak the truth. What happened?
4. Disrupting with Character- The town clerk defended the Christians because they lived with undeniable integrity. What does it look like practically for us to "disrupt the chaos with character" in our workplaces, schools, or families this week?