

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 19:22-41

- We left off with God doing special miracles in Ephesus and it has gotten everyone's attention > **19:17-20**- both saved and unsaved, Jew and Greek heard what was happening and those who wanted to surrender to the Lord, who no longer wanted to have one foot in the world and one foot in the Lord came confessing their sins and the Word of God grew mightily and **prevailed**- to make whole. Once whole the people had no problem burning a sacrificial fire to God even though it cost them plenty > **V19- 50,000** pieces of silver is the equivalent of **2yrs** wages for over **200** Roman soldiers, it does cost us to follow the Lord but the reward is greater than the cost.

V22-41

- **V21-22** this is the first mention by Paul of his desire to travel to Rome, later he would write to them expressing his plan to see them > **Rom 1:13-15**, but before going to Rome he mapped out his travel plans that lead him through Macedonia and Achaia, then Jerusalem and finally Rome. What Luke doesn't mention is Paul was taking up a collection from the other churches in that region to deliver to the church of Jerusalem that had fallen on hard times > **Rom 15:22-31**.
- **V24-27** this is the third time in Acts and the second time in this chapter that the Christian movement is called "**the Way**", remember Jesus said in **Jn 14:6** that "**He was the Way, the truth, and the Life**". People who don't believe want to snuff out that life and they'll do it by any means necessary, here its motivated by greed. Although miracles are happening, people are being healed physically and most importantly spiritually, a revival has broken out in Ephesus, and yet merchants are worried about their profits dropping because people won't buy their idols anymore, forget that these idols kept people in bondage and debt, as long as it benefitted them financially they didn't care, this folks is the heart of man being exposed for all to see.
- **Math 8:28-34**- two men are demon possessed, one of them had so many demons inside of him that in Luke's account they called themselves legion because they were many, and when they came upon Jesus He cast them out and gave the men peace instead of chaos. When the people of the city heard and came out and saw instead of worshipping, and thanking Jesus they become afraid and ask Him to leave, they were more afraid of Jesus turning their lives right side up than of demons ruining people's lives from the inside out, the world would rather have you controlled by Satan and terrorizing others than be surrendered to Jesus and in your right mind.
- **V28-29** Demetrius is successful in riling up the people although his motive is "**money**" **1Tim 6:9-10**- it's not money its self but the love of it that causes people to fall into many foolish and self destructive temptations. So he appeals to two things > **1st** the tradition of their city, **2nd** the reputation of their temple, sadly many people won't give up what is familiar for its become convenient even if they know it's wrong, so they'll continue down that same wrong path.

- **V30-32** here is a mob mentality has erupted, as most didn't even know why they were out raising such a fuss > **1Cor 14:33**- God is not the author of confusion but of peace, anytime you see confusion-chaos, people not knowing what their talking about, you can believe it's the enemy and not the Lord that has stirred up trouble in the hearts-minds of them who are upset. When anger is out of control this is when people can be the most dangerous, as often there's no rationale, no morals, no common sense, just anger ready to explode into violence.
- **V33-34** A Jewish man named Alexander tried to settle the angry confused crowd down but when they found out he was Jewish race prejudice entered into the fray, I tell you Satan doesn't care what stirs our hearts up to fight and divide with one another he's just interested that we do. **V35-40** finally an unnamed man who is identified as a city clerk calms the mob down who have been shouting for two hours nonstop desiring Paul's and his companions heads.
- He tells them that Rome who controls the whole civilized world has allowed Ephesus to exist as a free city within their Roman state. This allowed them to elect their own officials, conduct business in their own way, socialize without interference from Rome, but if the Romans hear that there's been civil unrest then they could revoke their privileges and bring in their own officials to run the city and no one in Ephesus that, as all their wealth, status, and freedoms would be taken, as Ephesians culture would be swallowed up by Roman Law **V40**.
- **V41** then the crowd dispersed; amazingly God uses an unnamed person to protect one who is called by His Name. This is the second time we've seen Paul attempt to defend himself only to see God intervene out of nowhere in his behalf and he doesn't have to say a word. God sees our situations, He knows our plight, but unbeknownst to us is we don't always know what He wants to accomplish, whether that's something in us, or someone else, which is why we need to leave the solutions and defending to Him, for when He does it people leave marveling at Him not us.