

## Acts 19:21-41 “fearless, cheerful, and in trouble”

Ephesus became a collecting place for superstition and the dark arts – a cesspool of the occult. Aware of this, Paul wrote to the Ephesian believers:

**X** **EPH. 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Ephesus was the waterhole for every kind of magician, witch, clairvoyant, and criminal. Con artists, murderers, and perverts all found the climate of Ephesus unusually agreeable. **The city was the Dark Castle of Asia Minor.**

**VERSE 14 OF CHAPTER 19** Also there were 7 sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. **15** And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” **16** Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

**WE GET SERIOUS ABOUT OUR FAITH WHEN THE GATES OF HELL ARE OPENED BEFORE OUR EYES!!!**

fear fell on the people... Jesus was magnified, confession of sin, burning of all things evil,

**20** So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. **Darkness**  
**was in retreat!**

**What would the devil say about your life Do they know you in hell like they know your Christ... Are you boiling hot or are you cold as ice**

Don't live your life like a compromise, **Oh, let go of this world and your faith**

**come alive**, It's a spiritual battle that we fight every day, Let the demons beware when we get down to pray. **PRAY**

*How's this for a definition of a Christian?*

Completely fearless,  
Continually cheerful, and  
Constantly in trouble. That was Paul!

**Acts 19:21** When these things were accomplished, **Paul felt a sense of accomplishment and well-deserved satisfaction.** Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem,

**Luke doesn't mention it here, but we know that one reason why Paul wanted to go through Macedonia and Achaia, then to Jerusalem was to collect and deliver a fund he had been collecting from other churches to help out the church in Jerusalem**

saying, "After I have been there, I **MUST** also see Rome." **Dr. G. Campbell**

**Morgan says, "That's not the MUST of the tourist; that's the MUST of the missionary."** <sup>22</sup> So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered

to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

<sup>23</sup> And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.

**\$\$ so often it's about \$. THE ECONOMY OF EPHESUS WAS DEPENDENT UPON THE INDUSTRY OF IDOLATRY. ENTER DEMETRIUS PRESIDENT OF SILVERSMITH LOCAL 666.**

Verse **24** For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. **25** He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said:

"Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. **STEDMEN** *"The silversmiths at Ephesus had been organized into a trade union. And they found that they were being hit hard in the most sensitive part of the human*

*anatomy -- the pocketbook."*

**Ephesus was home of the idol Diana. Pagan pilgrims flocked to her temple, and took back silver trinkets as souvenirs. This was big business. But the Jesus movement was cutting into profits. Idol makers were idle. Sales were down because salvation was up. A silversmith named Demetrius starts a riot. Oh, that our Christian witness and ministry could cut into the sale of sin – not with pickets and boycotts - but as with Paul, by changing lives with the Gospel.**

A man saw his friend looking very bloomy... He asked his friend, **"What's the matter?"** The friend said, **"My wife has just made me a millionaire."** He said, **"Well, what's wrong with that?"** The friend answered, **"I used to be a multi-millionaire."** Anything that hits us in the financial area always strikes home.

**26** Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. **(I want to worship a god made by man)** **27** So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." **Spurgeon said of this text, "I wish the gospel would affect the trade of London; I wish it might. There are some trades that need affecting, need to be cut a little shorter ... Not by an Act of Parliament! Let Acts of Parliament leave us alone. We can fight that battle alone. But may it come to an end by the spread of the gospel ... I have no faith in any reformation that does not come through men's hearts being changed."**


Men's hearts were being changed... it was wonderful change! But the change brought trials because whenever Christianity is perceived to hurt vested financial interest, persecution is sure to follow.

**Money is the bottom line!**

**Oh yes paganism, demon worship, depravity, sexual promiscuity, probably alcoholism and suicides were down... and yet Christians were ruining their**

city... My neighbor...

28 Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!"

 He evidently was quite unaware how ridiculous his charge really sounds. If Artemis is so great that the whole world worships her, then why is she not able to defend herself against this attack? If her power is so great that she commands the worship of men, why does she need the support of the city of Ephesus to defend her?

29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions.

**THE THEATRE** The theatre was 660 ft. in diameter (2 football fields) Some sources claim it sat 24,000 people others 56,700 point it was huge! **NO WONDER THERE WAS CONFUSION!**

→ 30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. ***Paul wanted to go in and speak to them. What an insight into the fearless bravery of this man of God, who did not hesitate a moment to take on a crowd like this. But his friends recognized that the mood of the crowd was ugly.***

31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. ***Romans, were concerned and sent word to Paul not to venture into the Theater. Romans would not tolerate civil disorder; they were in danger of losing their status as a free city, unencumbered by direct Roman rule.***

32 Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come

together.

**Demetrius did not have any trouble getting a crowd together because they were celebrating the Artemis festival (called “Artemesia”), a month of debauchery during which pilgrims came from everywhere to participate in athletic contests, drink, carouse, and have a ritual fling with prostitutes. Achilles Tattius, and eyewitness to one of these festivals, left this description: “It was the festival of Artemis, and every place was full of drunken men, and all the market-place was full of a multitude of men through the whole night.”**

33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, “Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!” **(With fingers in ears, ahhhhh, “Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!” “Great *is* Diana of the Ephesians!” When a crowd gets to the point where its emotions have been so short-circuited that its reasoning power is lost, it is in a very dangerous state.**

At any moment they could go crazy and start killing the Christians. I watched a movie this past week called **“Love Cost Everything”**. I will show you one example of persecution against Christians when it was perceived they did something bad. When the crowd loses reasoning power... This is nothing compared to the atrocities of ISIS but still it’s hard to watch.

**VIDEO CLIP** Watch and grieve with me.

## Their uproar was undignified, unjustifiable and unnecessary

35 And when the city clerk (like the mayor) had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the *image* which fell down from Zeus? 36 Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly. Our amazing God was in in control all the time!

### Are we indistinguishable from our decaying culture? Are we useless spiritually?

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by [Holy Spirit](#) power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of [Jesus](#). I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!