

## Lasting Impact

### Acts 19:21-41

**vs. 21-22**, Reflection and resolve to continue.

The newly formed Roman church could be the base needed to continue to preach the good news further and further westward.

Timothy and Erastus are sent on to Macedonia (collecting funds for the church in Jerusalem).

**1 Corinthians 16:1-4** Now about the collection for the saints: Do the same as I instructed the Galatian churches. **2** On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come. **3** When I arrive, I will send with letters those you recommend to carry your gift to Jerusalem. **4** If it is suitable for me to go as well, they will travel with me.

**2 Corinthians 8:1-4** We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: **2** During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. **3** I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, **4** they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints, **5** and not just as we had hoped. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us by God's will.

**vs. 23**, A major disturbance about the Way.  
Practicing the way of Jesus will disrupt.

**Question:** Does your life, your choices, your conversations, your relationships cause waves? (Not destructive waves, but beautiful, mysterious, pondering waves).

*Demetrius* - provided a great deal of business for the craftsmen.  
The Way is a danger to our economic interests.

Demetrius had a well developed argument.

1. Our trade will lose its good name.
2. Our temple will lose its prestige.
3. Our goddess will lose her divine majesty.

**vs. 27**, Think of the great goddess Artemis.

"There was no other Graeco-Roman metropolis in the Empire whose 'body, soul, and spirit' could so belong to a particular deity as did Ephesus to her patron goddess Artemis." ~ Ben Witherington III

One who "delivers."

Artemis was a virgin, and her priestesses and cult leaders appear to have been virgin girls, sexually inactive wives, and widows.

*Nobody's Mother: Artemis of the Ephesians in Antiquity and the New Testament*, Sandra L. Glahn

These insights give huge contextual clues to understanding Paul's instructions to Timothy in 1 & 2 Timothy.

**Question:** Do you truly understand the mindset of those you live among? Do you understand their joys, fears, livelihoods, etc..

**vs. 29**, The amphitheater

**vs. 30-34**, God's protection even if we don't recognize the circumstances.

- Paul was ready to address the crowd.
- Other followers of Jesus did not let him.
- Even Roman officials of Asia (friends) advised against it.
- Alexander, a Jew is pushed to the front.
- For two hours the crowd chants, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

**Question:** No matter your status are you willing to listen to others who have been placed in your life? Are you willing to admit that sometimes you aren't the solution to the problem? What implications does this have in your every day?

**vs. 35-41,** The city clerk

Luke describes the actions of a city official who knows and understands their city, the people, the law, and exhibits a huge gift of influence.

- He silenced the crowd.
- He argued them out of a potentially violent course of action.
- He warns them of their illegal behavior.
- He dismisses the crowd.

**Acts 20:16** For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, because he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, for the day of Pentecost.

Paul was aware of the potential danger which remained in Ephesus.

Why does Luke share with his intended audience this event?

- Notice this event doesn't really have much to do with Paul.

God's word is on the move and it is transforming lives which is becoming a threat to other social and religious sensibilities.

Christianity is a legitimate, truth filled worldview.

- It can and does challenge even the greatest and most potent of religious systems.
- The message of Jesus had spread well beyond Ephesus during Paul's three years in Asia.
- Luke has connected Paul's time in Athens with Paul's time in Ephesus. The good news of Jesus is picking up momentum. It will significantly change the local and global landscape.

We gain insight into Paul's missionary strategy.

- He lives and functions on the turf of those he seeks to engage.
- He intentionally interacts with winsome reason.

**1 Peter 3:13-17** If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy. Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick. They'll end up realizing that *they're* the ones who need a bath. (The Message)

- He utilizes the gift of "holy linger". Relationships take time. Paul knows and understands the necessity of cultivating relationships over time.

**Question:** Have you taken the time to develop a heart of mission? Are you willing to truly learn about the city of Tucson? How will this change how you interact with others?

So many times we use **our** background as an excuse to not love others. When sharing the good news it is not about me it is about communicating the love of Jesus to others. Their background is what matters!

Can you articulate your faith with joy? Are you prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks why you live the way you do?

How can you intentionally slow down and de-clutter (simplify) in order to make room for lingering relationships?