



ACTS

CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Why are we here?

Acts 19:21-41



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*“Against the persecution of a tyrant
the godly have no remedy but prayer.”*

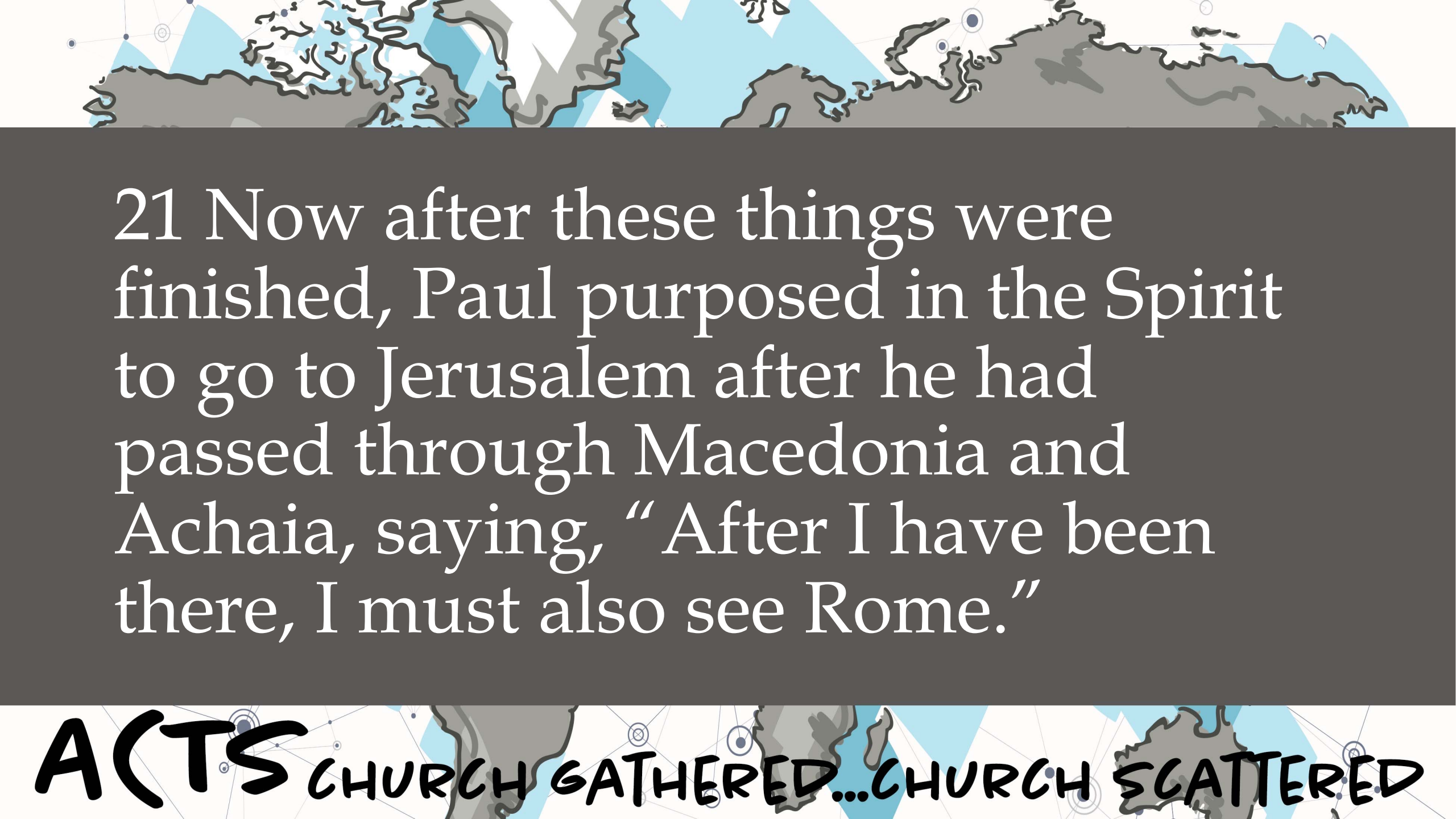
John Calvin

*“The blood of the martyrs
is the seed of the church.”*

Tertullian


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21 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.”

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




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Concern 21-22

- Passion for learning
- Passion for lost
- Passion for leaders

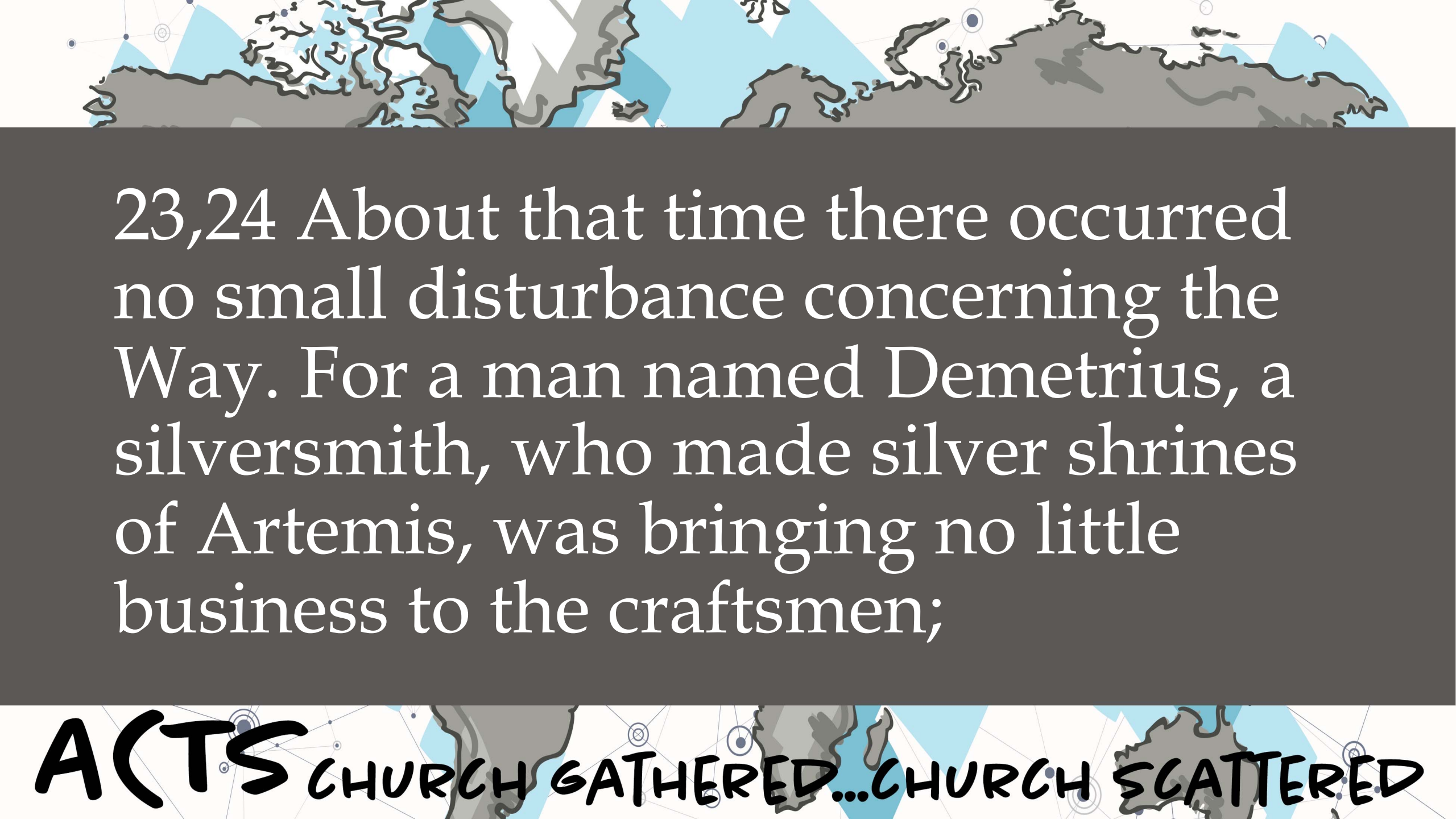
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*“If you have no opposition
in the place you serve,
you’re serving in the wrong place.”*
G. Campbell Morgan

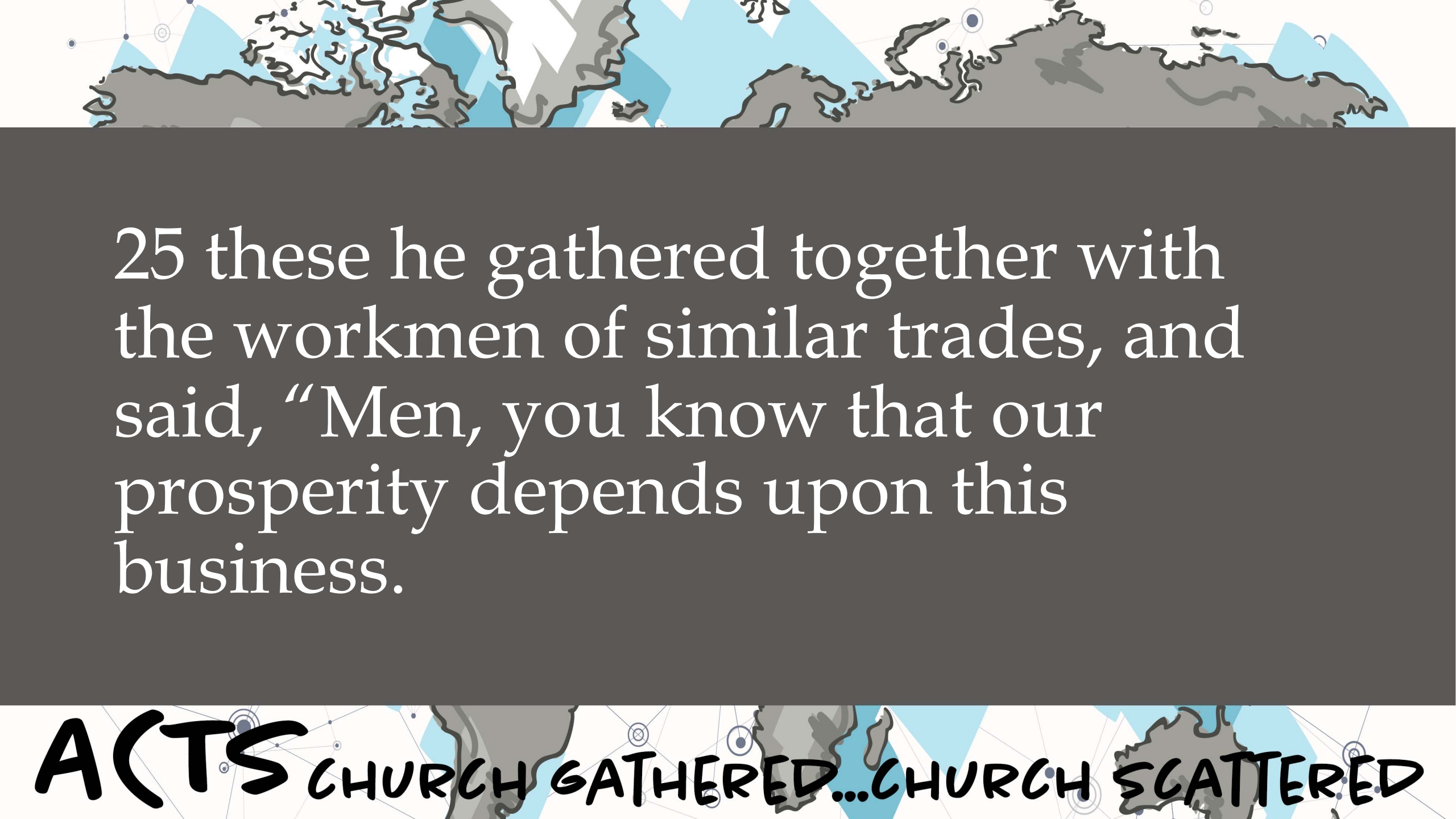
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23,24 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen;

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

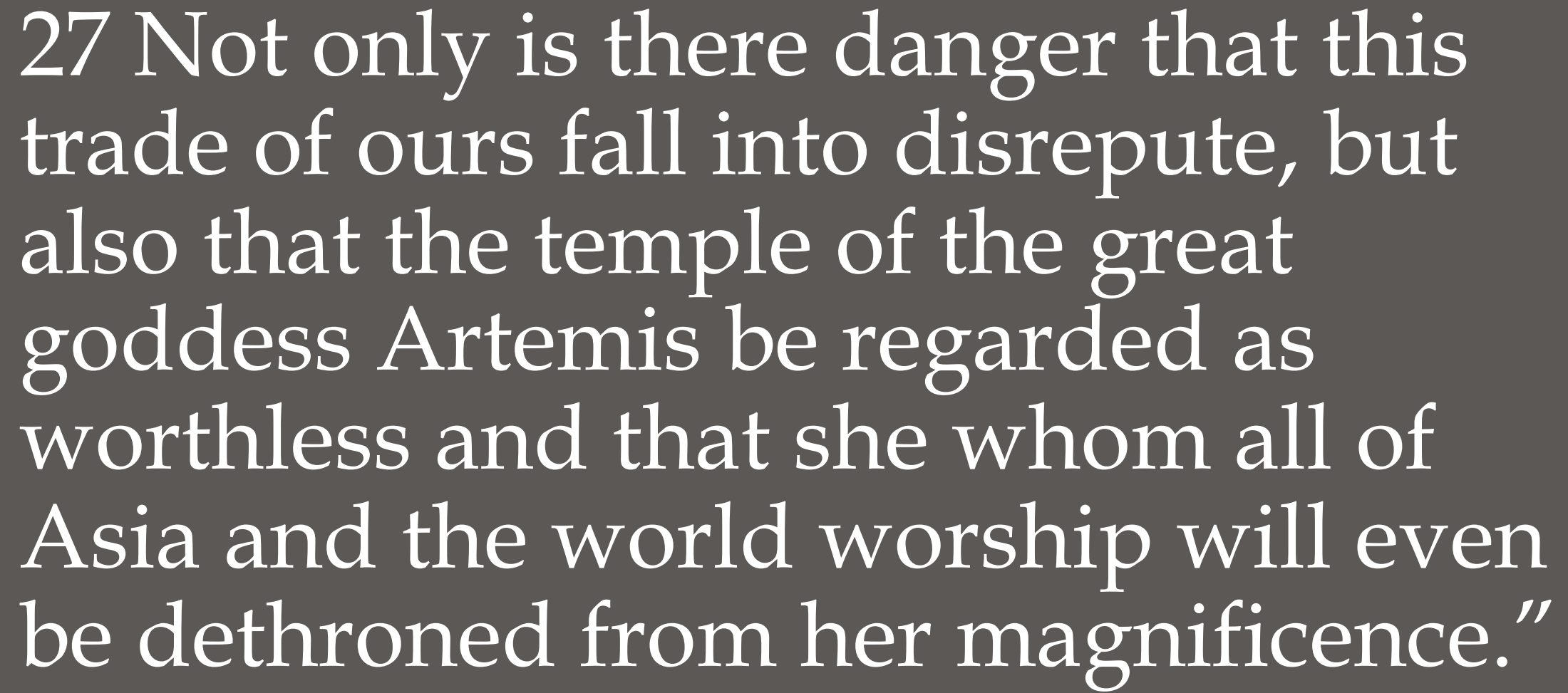
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26 You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

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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.”

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Artemis is the Greek goddess of the hunt, the wilderness, wild animals and the Moon.

The goddess Diana is her Roman equivalent.

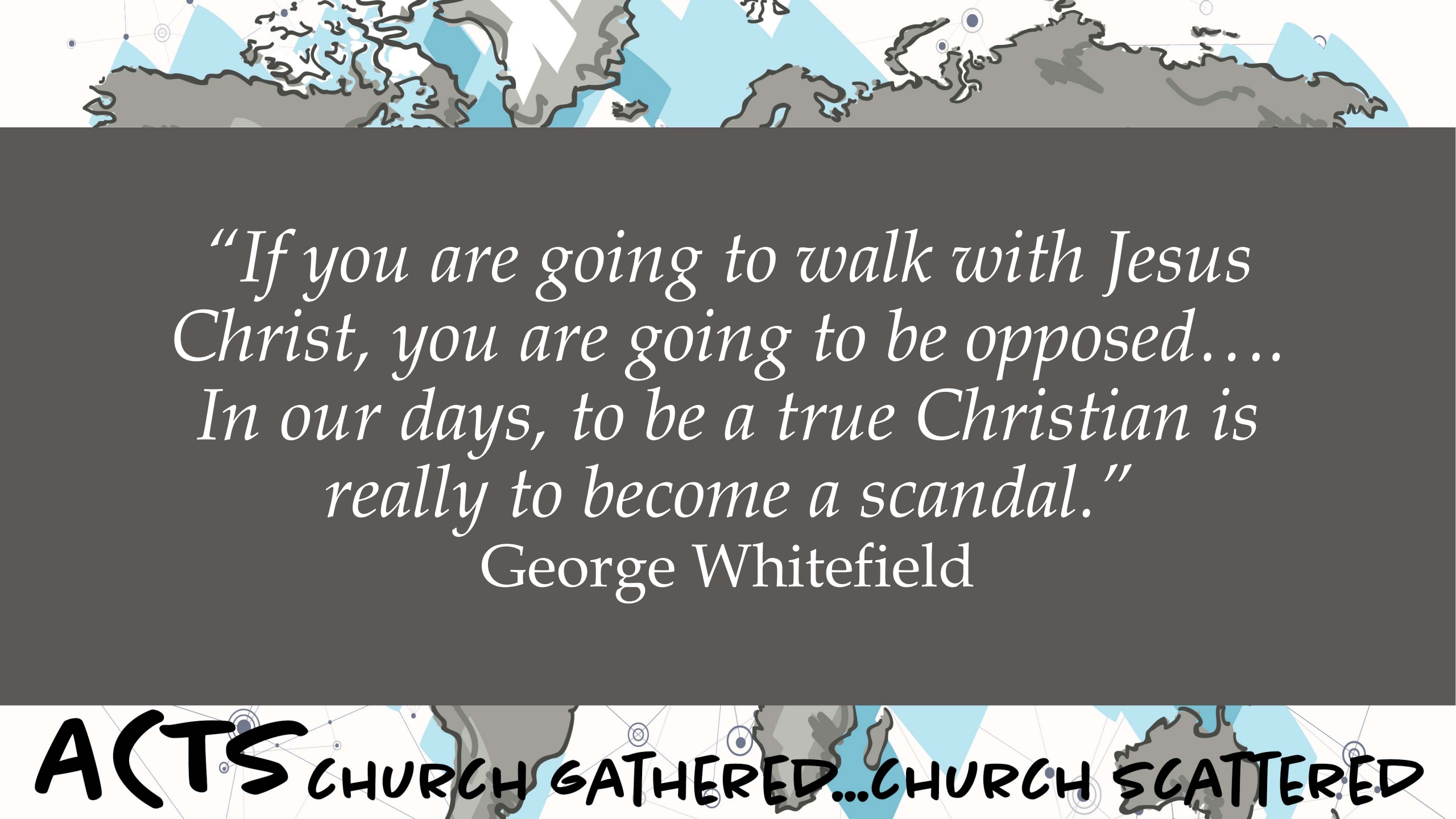
Artemis was one of the most widely venerated of the Ancient Greek deities and her temple at Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



Counsel 23-27

- Counsel of the World – best self interest
- Counsel about borrowed offense
- Counsel is to be compared with Scripture!

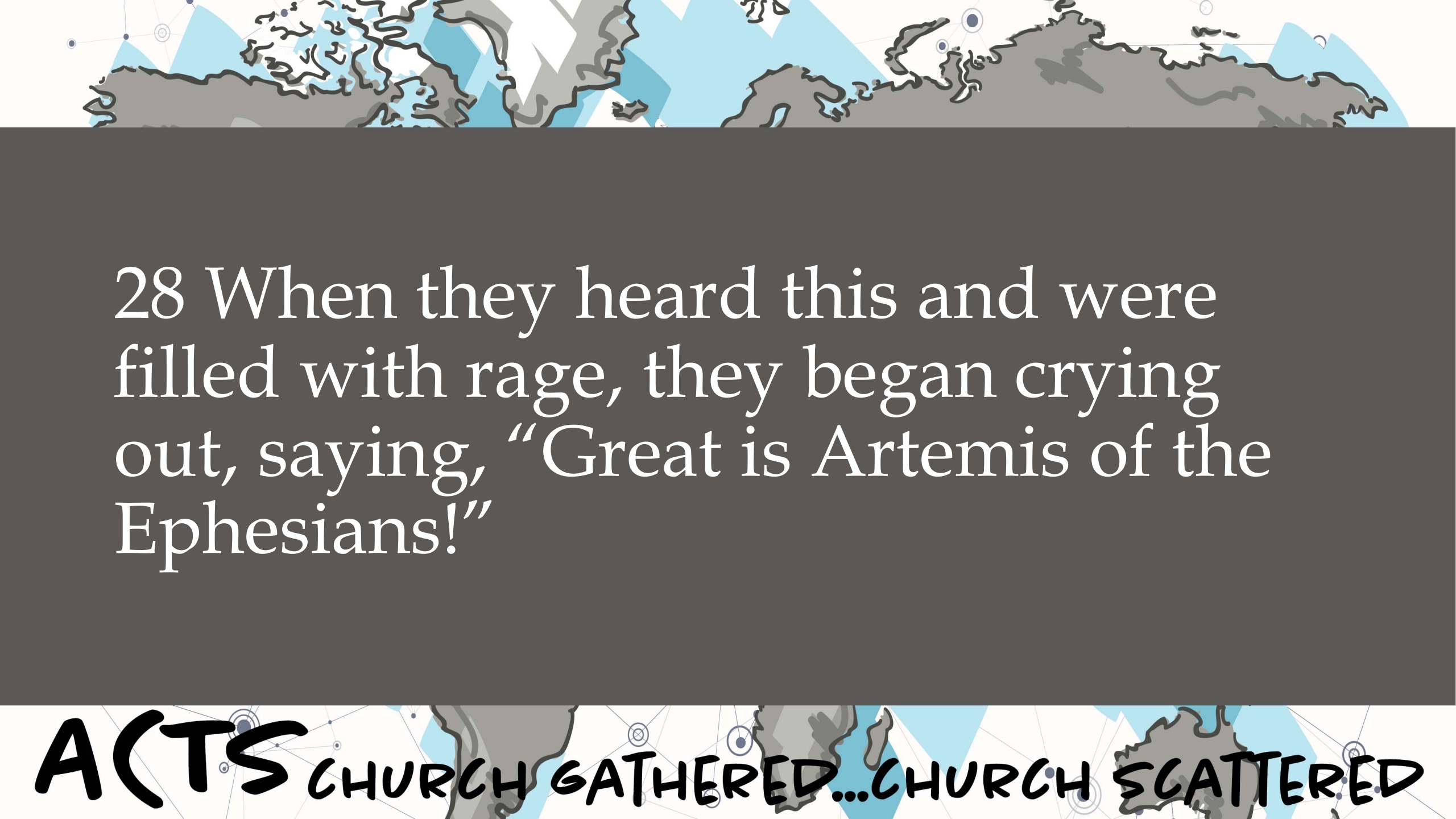
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*“If you are going to walk with Jesus Christ, you are going to be opposed....
In our days, to be a true Christian is really to become a scandal.”*


George Whitefield

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


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29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

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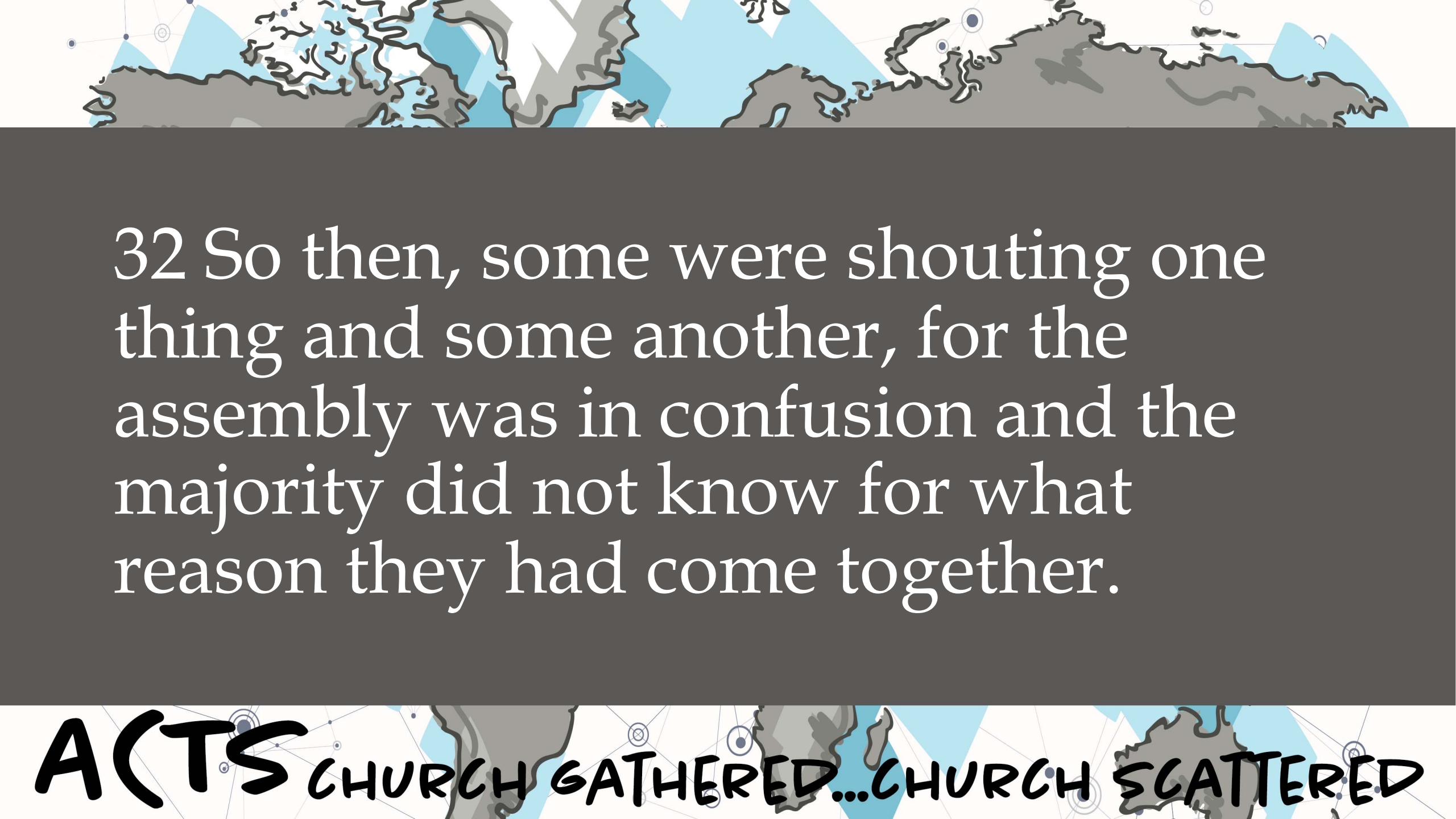




30,31 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him. Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

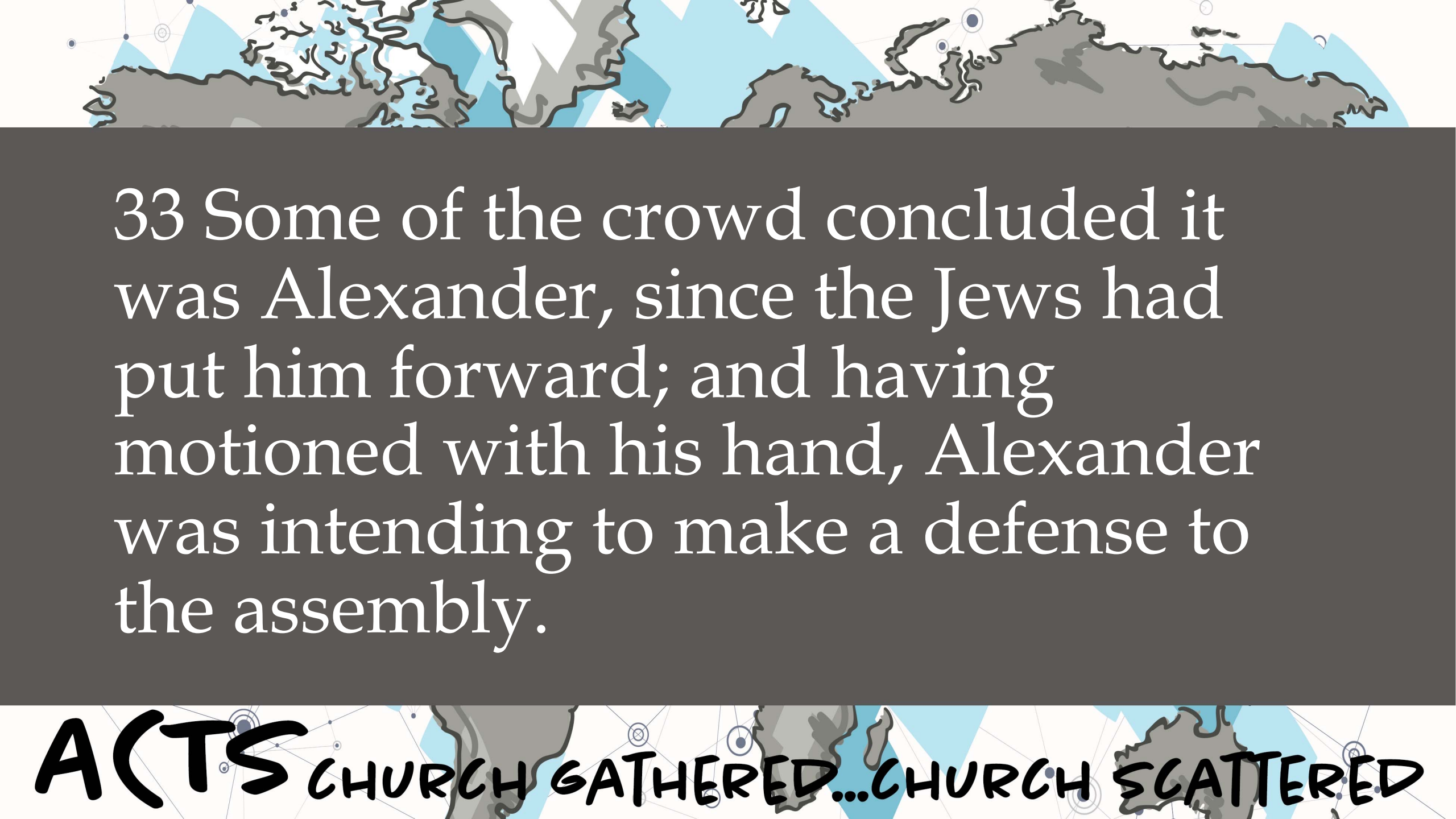
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32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together.

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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.

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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!”

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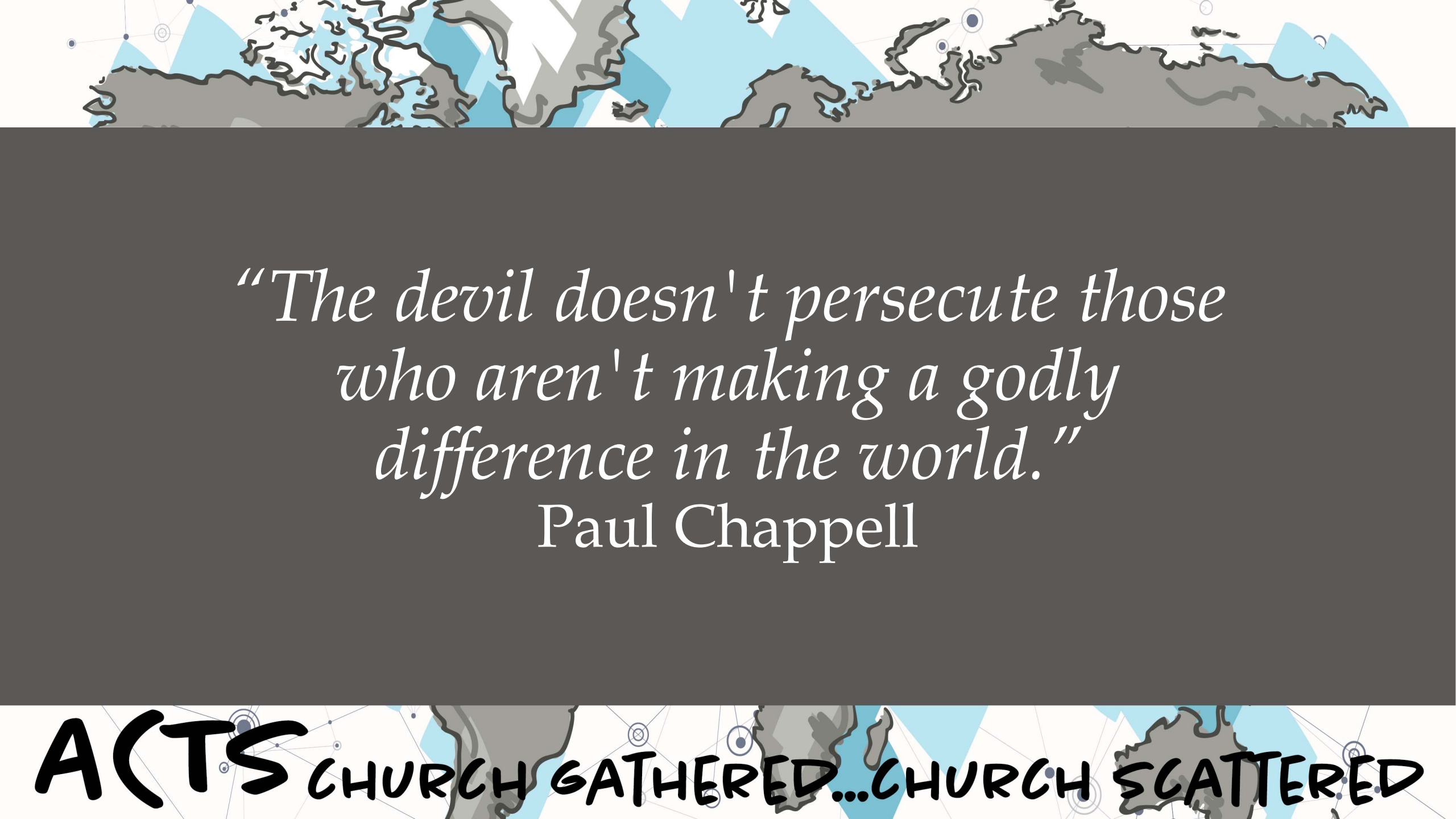




Crowds 28-34

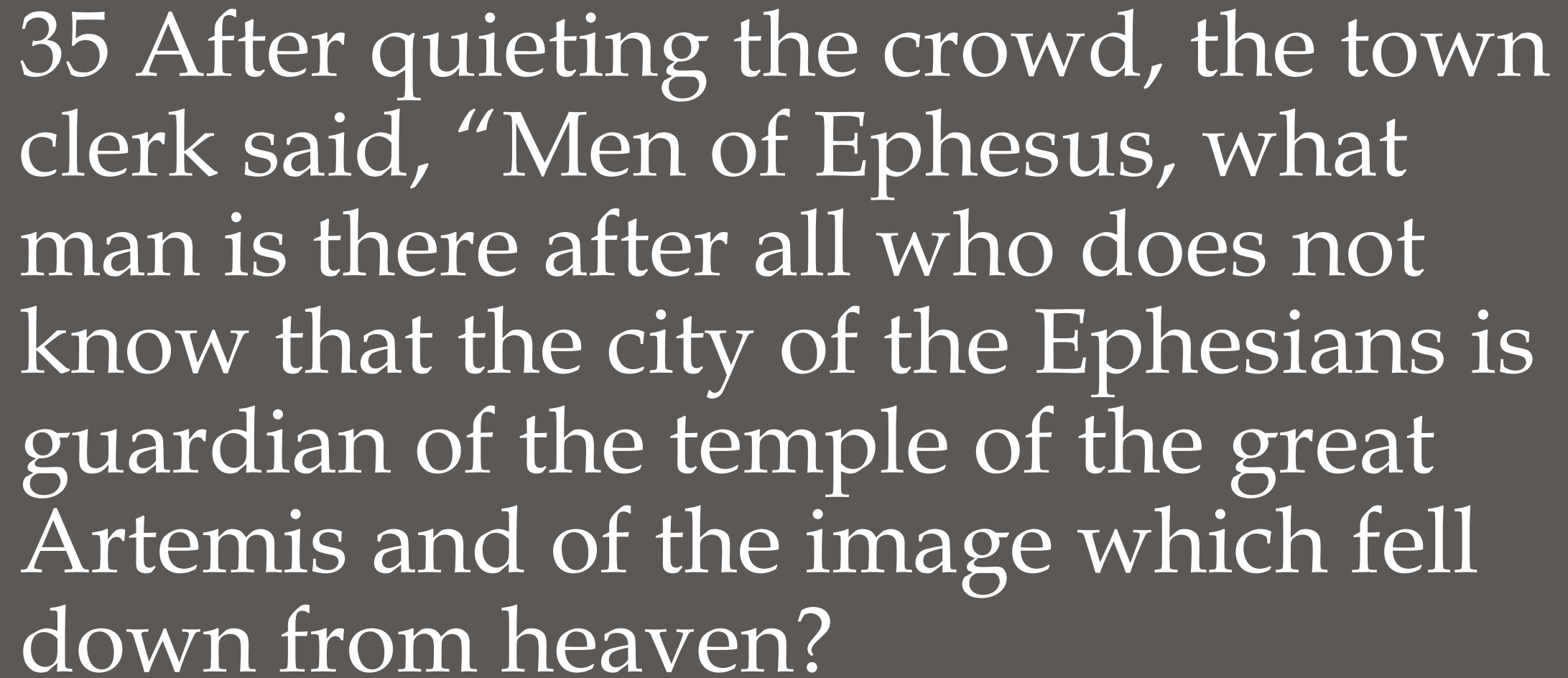
- World defends itself
- World can be vicious
- World will be insistent!
- World will be persistent!

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*“The devil doesn't persecute those
who aren't making a godly
difference in the world.”*
Paul Chappell

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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?”

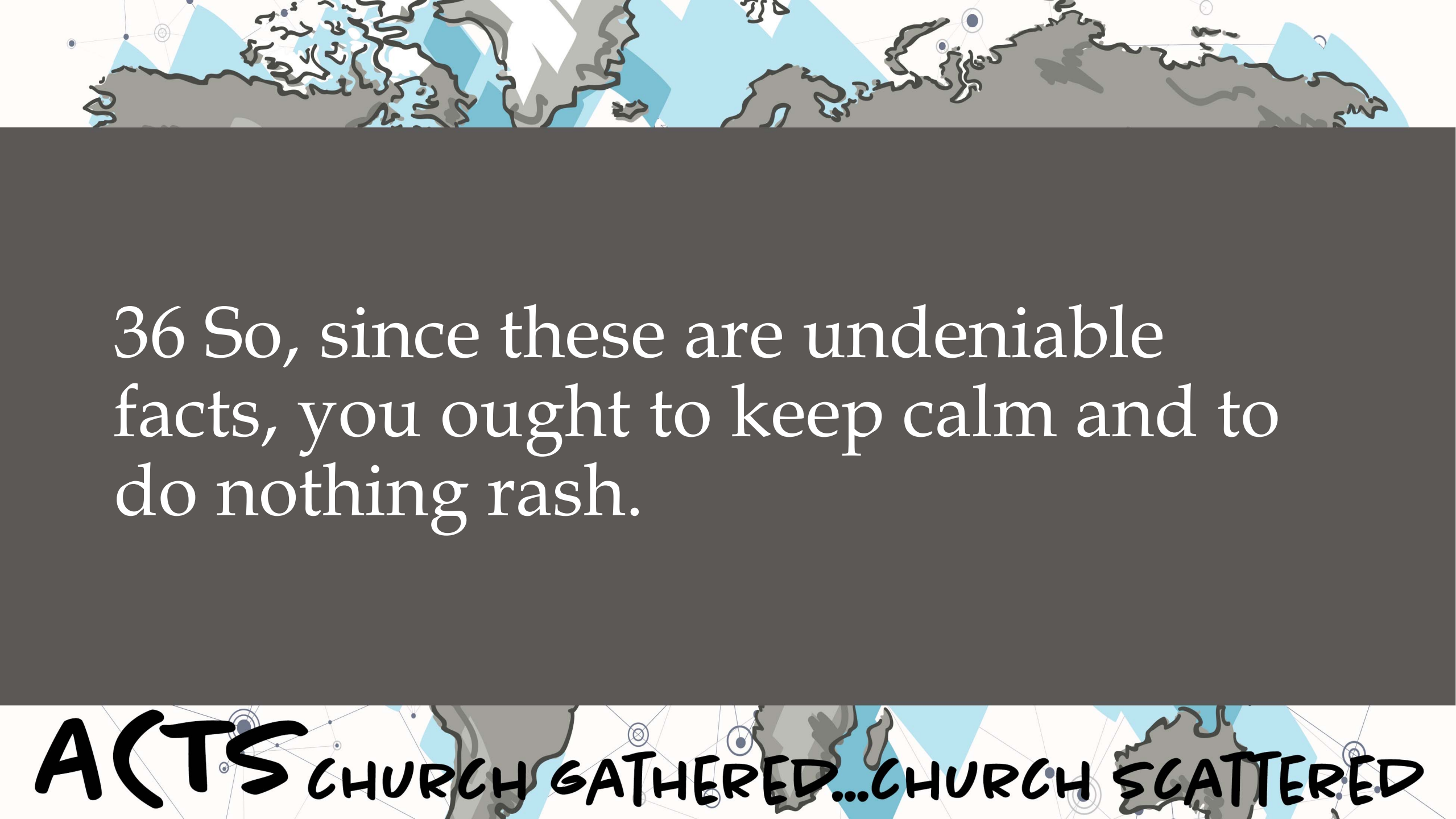
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The original temple was located in the ancient city of Ephesus. Today, this site is on what is now called the modern town of Selcuk.

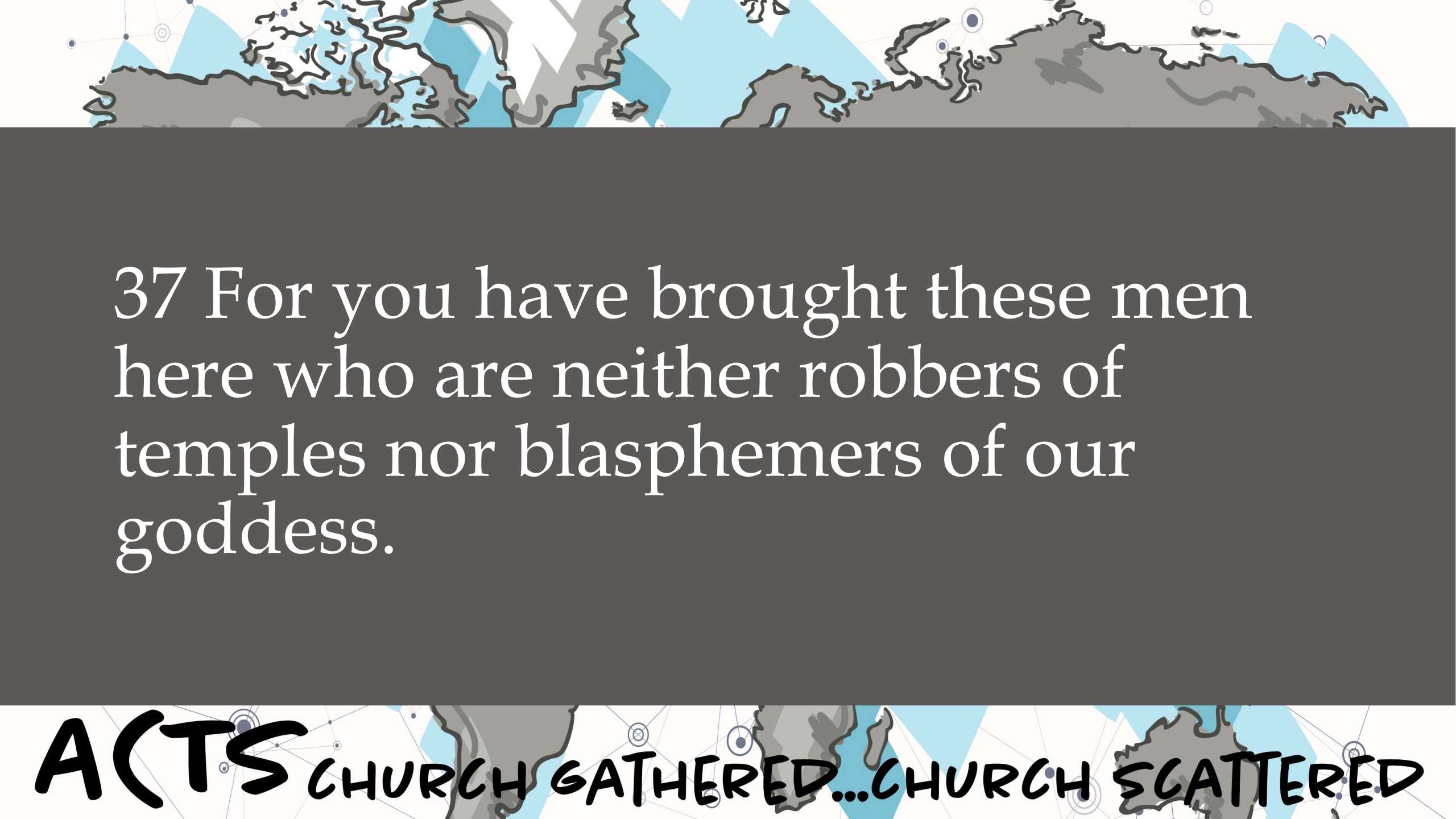
The temple of Artemis is located in Selcuk, Turkey. It's also known as the Temple of Diana.






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

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

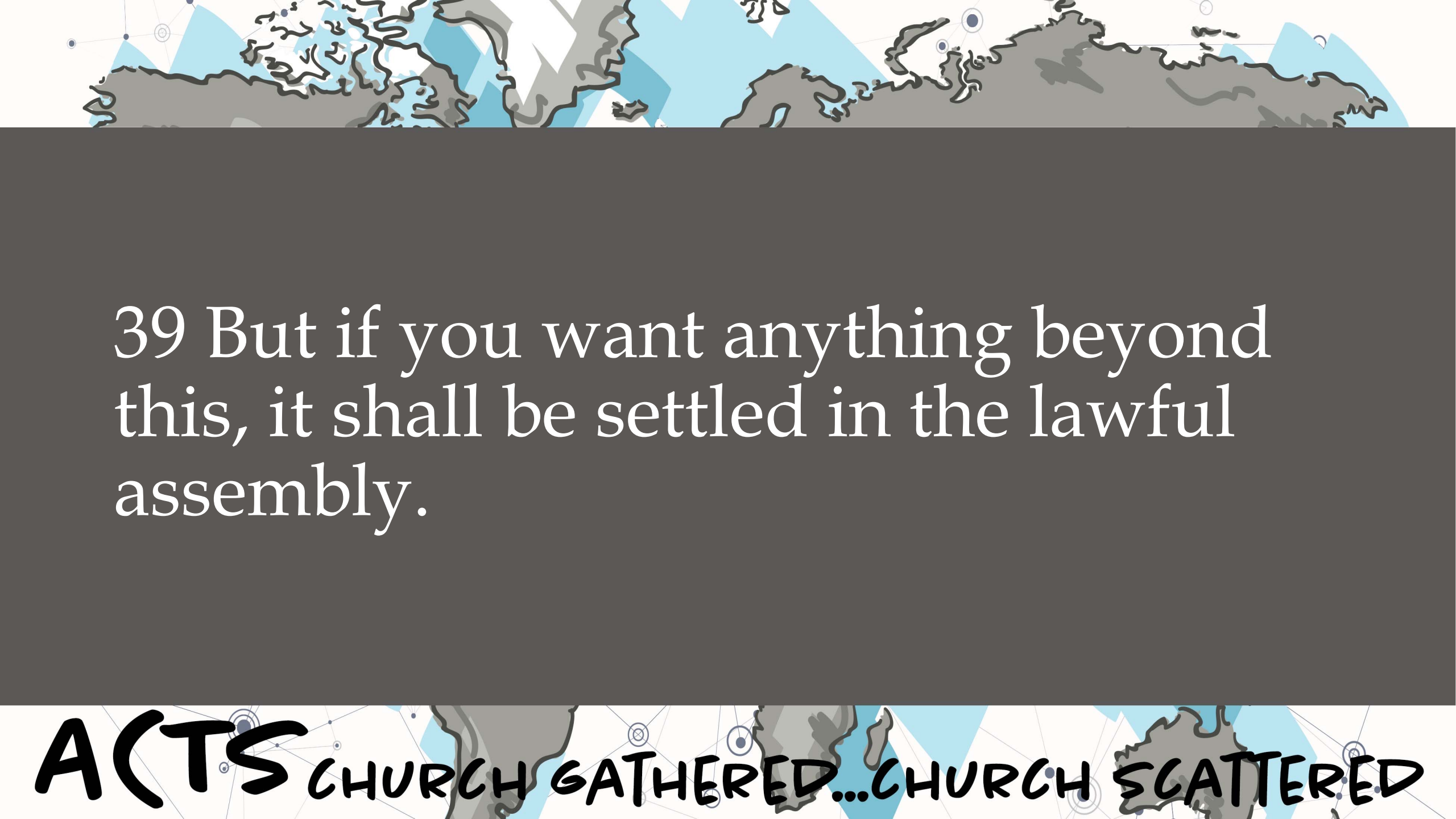
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38 So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against one another.

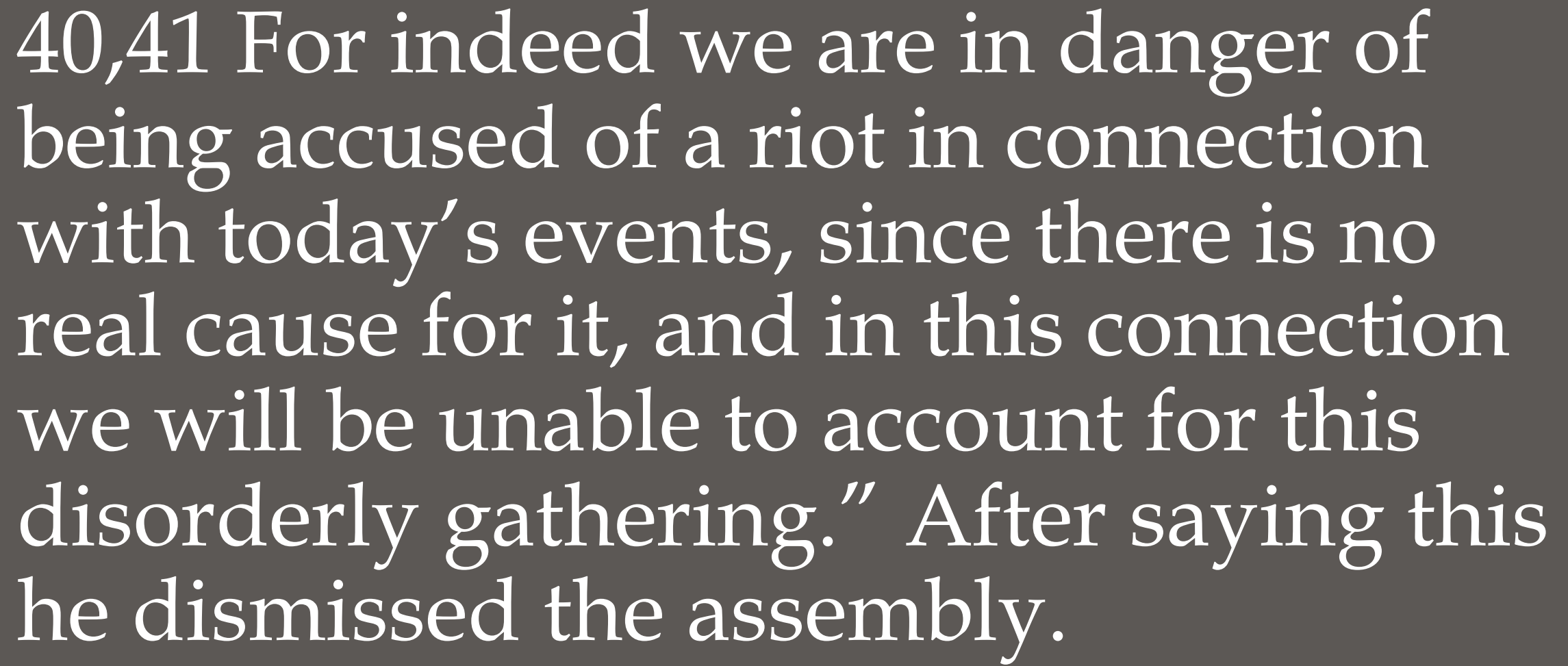
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39 But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly.

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40,41 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." After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

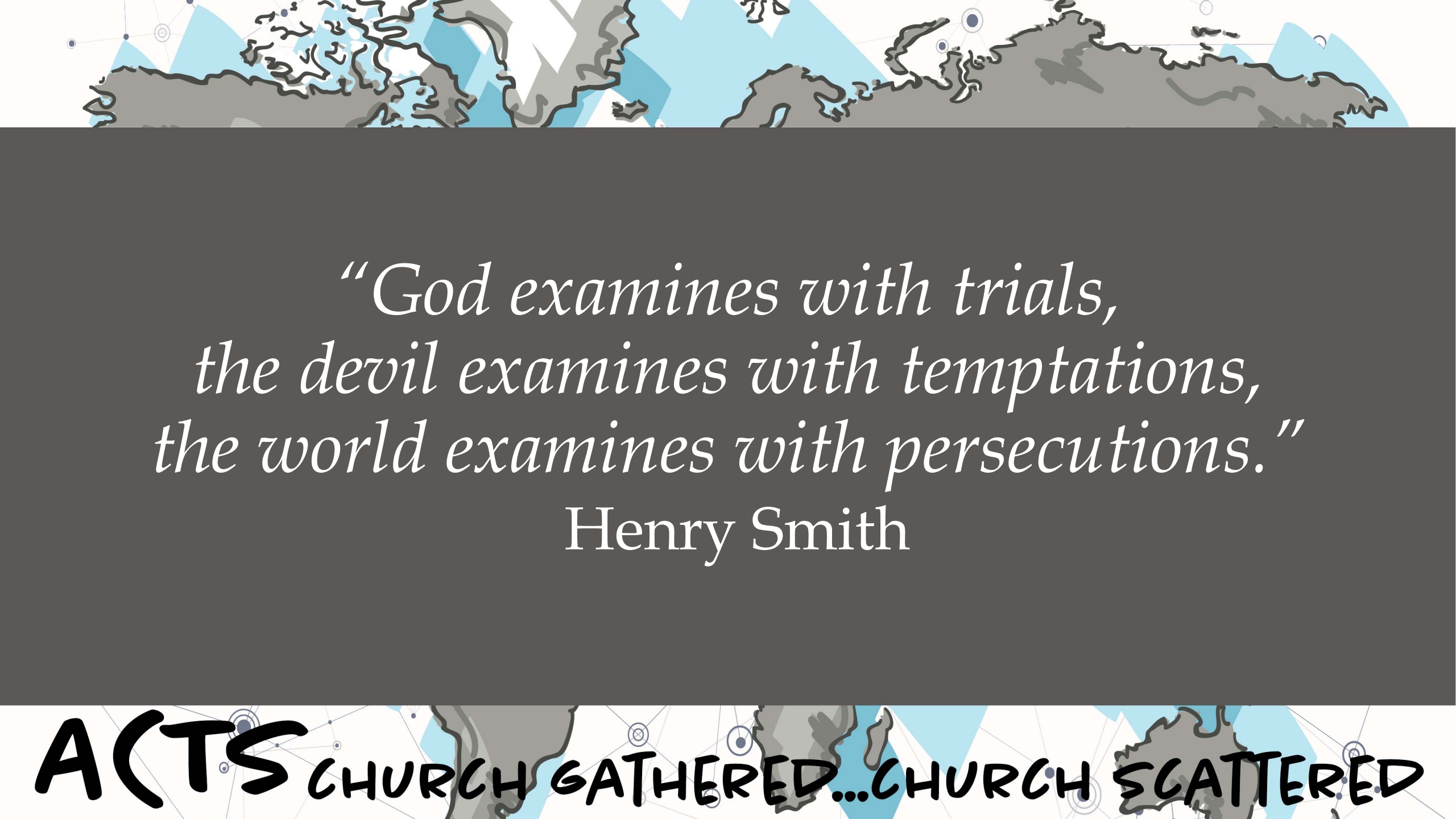
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Conceding 35-41

- Reason of men
- Rights of men
- Recourse of men
- Reactions of men

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*“God examines with trials,
the devil examines with temptations,
the world examines with persecutions.”*
Henry Smith

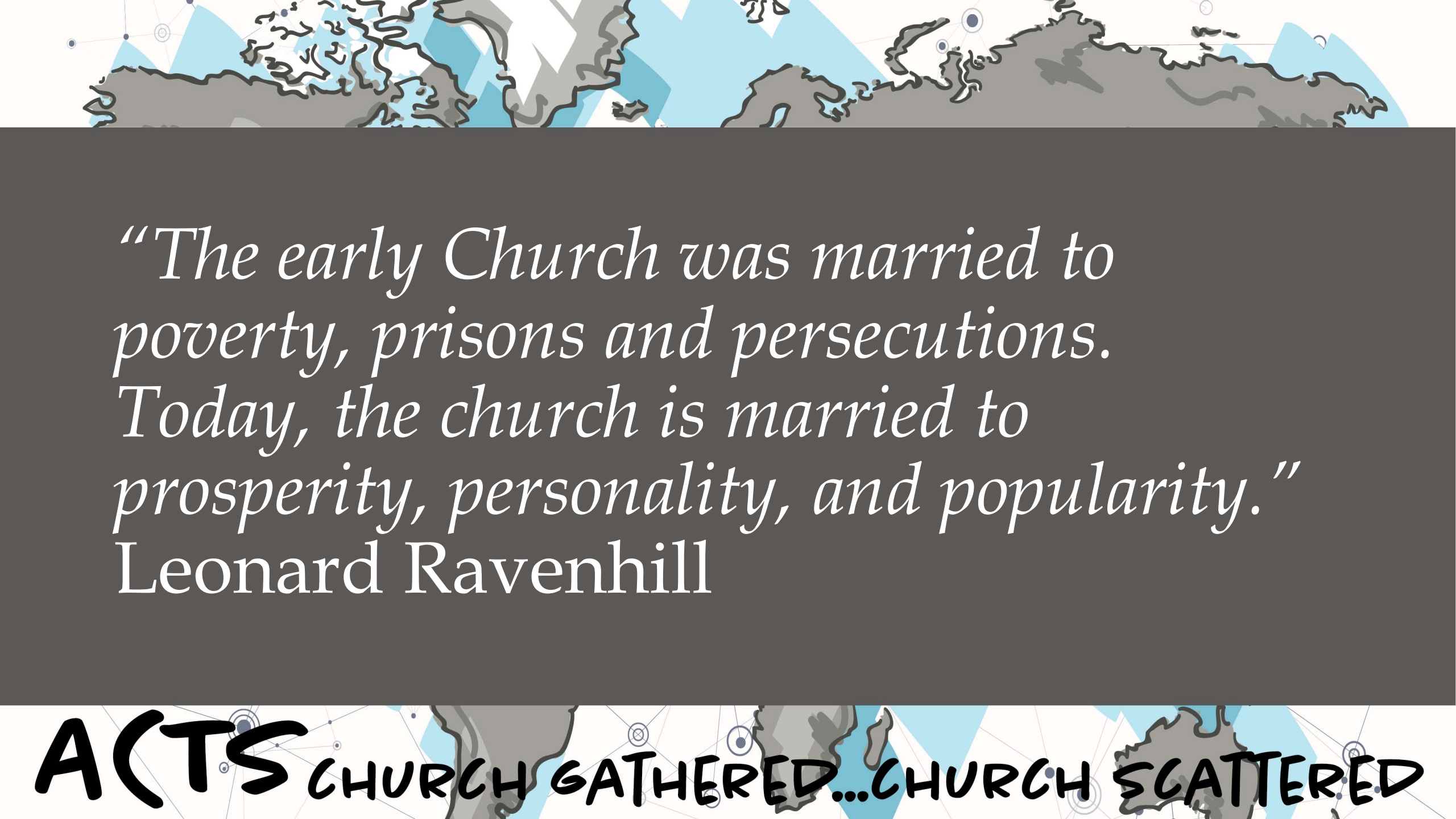
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Why are we here?

- The 'Way' – discipleship is life on the road!
- The Witness – 'sin, righteousness & judgment'
- The Warning – men will not always be reasonable

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“The early Church was married to poverty, prisons and persecutions. Today, the church is married to prosperity, personality, and popularity.”
Leonard Ravenhill

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