



Sermon Discussion Guide

06.18.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 19:21-41

Key Scriptures:

Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

- Acts 19:21-41



Message Highlights:

- In order to be far-reaching, we must be firmly anchored in Christ.
- We have a tendency to point out everyone else's confusion about the Gospel while not making an effort to wrestle with our own.
- Humans are wired to do extraordinary work, for good or for evil, and the way we walk will determine where we end up and where we take others.
- Acts isn't just an old story but an ongoing story that is meant to be our story as we stay committed to the ways of Jesus Christ.

Conversation Starter:

Do you consider yourself to be easily persuaded, or do you march to the beat of your own drum? In general, how do key people in your life tend to influence you or your actions?

Discuss the Message:

1. What is Paul's attitude toward the Spirit in Acts 19:21?
 - a. How would you define being 'resolved in the Spirit' based on the passage?
 - b. Do you notice a difference when you draw your strength from within yourself versus from the Holy Spirit?
 - c. How does the Spirit strengthen you in times of weakness?
2. What idol are the Ephesians initially worshiping in Acts 19:21-41?
 - a. What idols are you currently struggling with? Reflect on how entertainment, safety, etc. may be stunting your spiritual growth and share these idols with an accountability partner.
 - b. How do you plan to use your available time and energy to better know Jesus?
3. Read verse 26. How is Paul able to partner with the Spirit to do extraordinary work?
 - a. Do you feel that God is calling you to more firmly anchor in Christ or commit to being far-reaching with the Gospel in this season?
 - b. What talents do you sense that God has uniquely wired you with? If you're unsure, ask a group member, friend or family member for perspective.
 - c. How may God be calling you to use your giftings to minister to others?

Pray:

God, thanks for always being present with us and pursuing us, even when we tend to forget your goodness or to wander from you. We're grateful that in our confusion, you're faithful to show us the next step to take and lead us to look more like Jesus. This week, may we be intentional about continuing the story of Acts in our everyday lives. You've gifted and wired each of us in unique, beautiful ways and we pray that our talents are used to glorify you. In Jesus' name, amen.