

Society Gets Stirred Up

Acts 19:21-41

Acts 19:23 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way.
28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. 29 **And the whole city was filled with confusion...**

32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

- Paul Stayed following the Spirit
 - Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia
 - Paul desired to eventually go to Jerusalem and Rome but was led of the Spirit to stay put and help expose idolatry
- Paul stirred up society
 - No small stir means it was a REAL BIG DEAL
 - Paul was exposing the gods of Ephesus as the false gods they were
 - The Bible says he stayed “for a season”
 - God works in seasons
 - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
 - **1** To everything *there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
 - 2** A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted;
 - 3** A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 - 4** A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 - 5** A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 - 6** A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

- Seasons are spiritually discerned not situationally selected
- Demetrius Defends Diana
 - Notice Demetrius' first priority was his livelihood
 - His god was his livelihood not his life
 - He gathered folks that he knew would feel the same way "Sirs, ye know by this craft we have our wealth"
 - He wanted them to be as scared as he was that people would realize the truth
 - Their craft in danger
 - Diana despised
 - Everyone feels this way
- Crazy Confused Crowd
 - OH Yeah?! Well Great is Diana of the Ephesians
 - Their cry was one of rebellion
 - Their rage was just a reaction to be part of something
 - Many of the crowd was completely unaware of what was even going on at this point
 - OOH people are so mad, what are they mad about, I want to be mad about it too
 - Paul wanted to try to calm them down
 - He had friends that were able to talk to him
 - Sometimes we think we can make a difference when all we really do is make things worse
 - Their confusion was so that some yelled one thing while others yelled something else
 - The most part had no idea what was going on
 - Alexander was volunteered
 - He Jewish friends threw him under the bus
 - He tried to calm them down
 - When they saw he was a Jew it only caused the confusion to cease as they unified against truth

- The town clerk calmed the crowd
 - He was obviously a follower of Diana
 - Diana was his god, not his livelihood
 - He was a peaceable man
 - He was a law abiding man
 - Moral, not all pagans are immoral
 - God used a pagan worshiping man, when a God worshiping man couldn't do

This story truly reminds me of our society today.

- Money Rules Most
 - If you really want to upset them, mess with their money
- Everybody feels this way
 - It's sad how the minority always seems to speak for the majority
- Sometimes God uses a pagan to preach...i.e. Gene Simons on Tim Tebow

