

ACTS: Church On Mission

Part 52- The Gospel Causes A Riot

Acts 19:18-41- "Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing & divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together & burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them & found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase & prevail mightily. Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia & Achaia & go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy & 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, w/ the workmen in similar trades, & said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see & hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded & turned away a great many people, saying that gods made w/ 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, & that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia & the world worship." When they heard this they were enraged & were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" So the city was filled w/ the confusion, & they rushed together into the theater, dragging w/ them Gaius & 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 & were urging him not to venture into the theater. Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, & 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 w/ 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 w/ 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, & of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? Seeing then that these

things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet & do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. If therefore Demetrius & the craftsmen w/ him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, & 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 w/ 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."

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- **Who Was Artemis?**

- VS. 26- "And you see & hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded & turned away a great many people, saying that gods made w/ hands are not gods."

- **1. The New Way Of Approaching God**

- **The Other "Ways" Had Priests, Sacrifices & Temples**

- Matthew 23:27-28- "Woe to you, scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but w/in are full of dead people's bones & all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but w/in you are full of hypocrisy & lawlessness."

- **The Gospel Was Controversial Because It Said...**

- John 14:6- "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- Ephesians 2:13-16- "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one & has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility...so making peace, & might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility."
- 1 Corinthians 3:16- "Do you not know that you are God's temple & that God's Spirit dwells in you?"
- 2 Corinthians 6:16- "What agreement has the temple of God w/ idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them & walk among them, & I will be their God, & they shall be my people." 2 Corinthians 5-6-

Now we're ambassadors- be reconciled!

- Philippians 1:27a- "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ..."
- **Sacrifices:**
- **Temples:**
- **Priests**
- **3. That Way Is Still The Way**
- VS. 19a- "...& burned them in the sight of all..."
- James 5:16- "Therefore, confess your sins to one another & pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."
- Romans 9:33- "as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, & a rock of offense; & whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
- Matthew 21:44- "And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; & when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."
- Revelation 2:1-7- The risen Jesus writes a letter to the Ephesians