

### Acts 19:21-41

#### *The Riot in Ephesus*

21 After these events, Paul resolved by the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem. "After I've been there," he said, "It is necessary for me to see Rome as well."

22 After sending to Macedonia two of those who assisted him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

23 About that time there was a major disturbance about the Way. 24 For a person named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, provided a great deal of business for the craftsmen. 25 When he had assembled them, as well as the workers engaged in this type of business, he said, "Men, you know that our prosperity is derived from this business. 26 You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this man Paul has persuaded and misled a considerable number of people by saying that gods made by hand are not gods. 27 Not only do we run a risk that our business may be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be despised and her magnificence come to the verge of ruin—the very one all of Asia and the world worship."

28 When they had heard this, they were filled with rage and began to cry out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 So the city was filled with confusion, and they rushed all together into the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's traveling companions. 30 Although Paul wanted to go in before the people, the disciples did not let him. 31 Even some of the provincial officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent word to him, pleading with him not to venture into the amphitheater. 32 Some were shouting one thing and some another, because the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 Some Jews in the crowd gave instructions to Alexander after they pushed him to the front. Motioning with his hand, Alexander wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

35 When the city clerk had calmed the crowd down, he said, "People of Ephesus! What person is there who doesn't know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple guardian of the great Artemis, and of the image that fell from heaven? 36 Therefore, since these things are undeniable, you must keep calm and not do anything rash. 37 For you have brought these men here who are not temple robbers or blasphemers of our goddess. 38 So if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are in session, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you seek anything further, it must be decided in a legal assembly. 40 In fact, we run a risk of being charged with rioting for what happened today, since there is no justification that we can give as a reason for this disturbance." 41 After saying this, he dismissed the assembly.

#### **LET'S CATCH UP!**

- This is Paul's 3rd missionary journey...arrives in Ephesus
- Paul spent about 3 months in the synagogue: trying to teach & persuade people about the kingdom of God.
- Not well received in the synagogue, so Paul heads over to the hall of Tyrannus.
- He ends up leading discussions every day in this lecture hall for 2 years!
  - Lots of success in Ephesus
  - God is doing amazing miracles thru Paul: healings, exorcisms,
  - Many people are repenting, burning their magic books. Incredible!
  - Paul has been in Ephesus for about 3 years...is the best guess.

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- Even though Paul is seeing amazing fruit & ministry success, he must continue on his mission.
- He is not content to stay comfortable.
- Paul is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- He must stay on purpose.
- He is *resolved*.

**Sometimes even good things in life can distract from what God truly has for us.**

- Are you living on the mission & for the purpose that God has for you?

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- MAJOR DISTURBANCE?!!

- The enemy attacks during transition
- The name *Demetrius* means “Worshiper of Demeter”
  - “*de*” – earth, “*meter*” mother
  - earth mother or Mother earth
  - One of the greatest Greek dieties: presided over grain & harvest
- We can assume that Demetrius was a pagan; raised as a pagan
  - He is upset about the loss of his livelihood
  - He is upset about Paul & these Christians talking trash about his favorite goddess, Artemis



- Temple of Artemis was 1 of the 7 wonders of the world
- People came from all over to visit Ephesus & worship Artemis
- Huge amount of income was generated from this tourism.
- Paul is preaching the gospel & potentially disrupting this huge economic engine

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- “...they were filled with rage...”
  - Why is it that we get so upset when God messes with our money?

### Matthew 6:24

24 “No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- Is there a cure for this?

### Matthew 6:25-33

25 “Therefore I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing?  
26 Consider the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than [them]? 27 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 30 If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you—you of little faith? 31 So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

- The very first lie in the garden was that God wasn’t really good
- This isn’t just about their money. This is their identity.

33 Some Jews in the crowd gave instructions to Alexander after they pushed him to the front. Motioning with his hand, Alexander wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

- This may be the same Alexander that Paul warns Timothy about in 2 Timothy 4...

### 2 Timothy 4:14-15

14 Alexander the coppersmith did great harm to me. The Lord will repay him according to his works. 15 Watch out for him yourself because he strongly opposed our words.

- Jews appoint Alexander as their representative...to make a defense.
- Why does he want to make a defense?
  - Most likely to make it clear that *they* (the Jews) are NOT with Paul & his troublemaking friends
  - *Are you ever ashamed of being associated with servants of Jesus...or with Jesus, Himself?*
  - We should never be ashamed of our Savior!

35 When the city clerk had calmed the crowd down, he said, “People of Ephesus! What person is there who doesn’t know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple guardian of the great Artemis, and of the image that fell from heaven? 36 Therefore, since these things are undeniable, you must keep calm and not do anything rash. 37 For you have brought these men here who are not temple robbers or blasphemers of our goddess. 38 So if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a case against anyone, the courts are in session, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you seek anything further, it must be decided in a legal assembly. 40 In fact, we run a risk of being charged with rioting for what happened today, since there is no justification that we can give as a reason for this disturbance.” 41 After saying this, he dismissed the assembly.

- We should fear God above all else
  - more than we fear men...their laws...or the consequences of breaking laws

## **CONCLUSION**

- Anything that takes the place of God in our lives is an idol.

What in your life, if God tried to remove it, would fill you with rage?

What still needs to be brought under the authority of Jesus?

What have you yet to surrender to Him?

In what areas of your life is He calling you today to repent?

## **Psalm 2**

### ***Coronation of the Son***

1 Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth take their stand,  
and the rulers conspire together  
against the Lord and his Anointed One:

3 "Let's tear off their chains  
and throw their ropes off of us."

4 The one enthroned in heaven laughs;  
the Lord ridicules them.

5 Then he speaks to them in his anger  
and terrifies them in his wrath:

6 "I have installed my king  
on Zion, my holy mountain."

7 I will declare the Lord's decree.  
He said to me, "You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father.

8 Ask of me,  
and I will make the nations your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You will break them with an iron scepter;  
you will shatter them like pottery."

10 So now, kings, be wise;  
receive instruction, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with reverential awe  
and rejoice with trembling.

12 Pay homage to the Son or he will be angry  
and you will perish in your rebellion,  
for his anger may ignite at any moment.  
All who take refuge in him are happy.