

## Acts 19:23-41

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 9-27-17

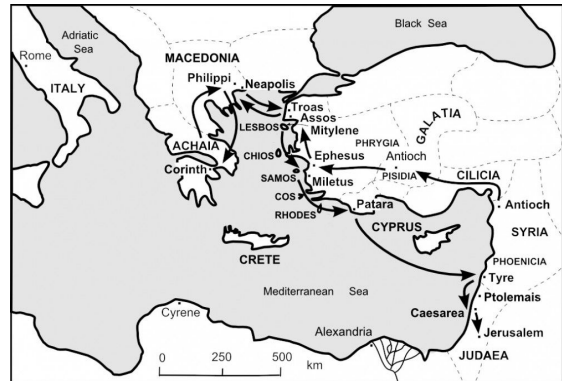
### Context

#### IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)**
- F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

#### The Riot in Ephesus (vv. 23-41)

- Vv. 23-27 - The origin of the riot
  - The cause of the riot was neither doctrinal nor ethical, but \_\_\_\_\_
  - Demetrius & the craftsmen - Selling either miniature models of the temple or statuettes of the goddess herself
  - V. 27 - 3 additional motives for concern:
    - \_\_\_\_\_ could fall into disrepute
    - \_\_\_\_\_ would lose its prestige
    - \_\_\_\_\_ would lose her divine majesty
  - Vested interests disguised as local patriotism and religious zeal
  - Jesus: be "wise as serpents" - world full of deceivers/manipulators (I John 4:1; II Cor. 11:14-15)
    - Compare what is being taught with the clear teaching of the \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Acts 17:10-11)
- Vv. 28-34 - The course of the riot
  - Demetrius = skilled rabble-rouser. The artisans' response = immediate
  - Gaius and Aristarchus dragged to the Great Theater of Ephesus
    - Foot of Mt. Pion
    - 500 ft. in diameter, 25k capacity - largest theater in Asia Minor
    - Dramatic performances, but also for demonstrations of a social, political, economic, religious nature and for gladiator games
  - Vv. 30-31 - Paul refused entry by disciples and "Asiarchs" = prominent members of the provincial council of Asia
  - V. 32 - the assembly descends into \_\_\_\_\_
    - Value of wise counsel of trusted friends
  - V. 33 - Alexander and the hysterical screams
    - The power of fanatical religiosity/nationalism
    - The only thing paganism can do is shout itself hoarse
- Vv. 35-41 - The termination of the riot
  - V. 35 - the town clerk = chief administrative assistant on the city. Calms the crowd w/ 4 points:



- Vv. 35-36 - The worldwide fame of Artemis is in no danger
  - V. 37 - the men are innocent since they neither robbed the temple nor reviled the goddess
  - Vv. 38-39 - Demetrius and Co. need to follow the proper statutory legal procedures
  - V. 40 - perhaps most important, Ephesus is in danger of being charged with civil disorder - which would attract the attention of Rome, which no one wanted.
- Luke's purpose in recounting this incident: To show that Rome has no \_\_\_\_\_ against Christianity in general or Paul in particular
  - Cf. Corinth and the proconsul Gallio
  - The town clerk in Ephesus implied that the opposition to Christianity was purely emotional and was innocent of any real charge of crime

### Paul's Strategy for Urban Evangelism

- The secular \_\_\_\_\_ he chose
  - Started w/ synagogues, but moved into the secular spheres (Justus Titius and Tyrannus)
  - Today:
    - The need to evangelize the religious (in the church)
    - Cannot limit our evangelism to the religious
    - If religious people can be reached in religious places, the nonreligious need to be reach in nonreligious places
- His reasoned \_\_\_\_\_
  - Verbs: "reason" or "argue" (18:4, 13 - in Corinth; 19:8-9 - in Ephesus)
  - Argument + persuasion = people were persuaded (19:26)
  - Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ by the truth of the gospel and \_\_\_\_\_ by the indwelling of the Spirit
- The \_\_\_\_\_ - periods of his evangelization
  - 2 yrs. in Corinth, 3 yrs. in Ephesus - daily, weekly ministry
    - Tentmaking until 11am, lectured from 11am until 4pm, 6 days a week over 2 yrs, = 3,120 hrs of gospel argument!
    - All the roads of Asia converged in Ephesus, hence 19:10 - "All who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks."
  - When the gospel is reasonably, systematically, and thoroughly proclaimed in the both the religious and secular centers, it will impact the region
  - Failures of our evangelism:
    - Ecclesiocentric - expecting people to come to our church
      - Paul went to them
    - Emotionalistic - seeks a decision without an adequate basis for understanding
      - Paul reasoned and argued
    - Superficial - making brief encounters and expecting quick results
      - Paul invested 5 years of his life, faithfully forming relationships and sowing seeds