

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"Riot in Ephesus"

Acts 19:21-31

[21] When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." [22] So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time. [23] And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. [24] For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. [25] He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. [26] Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. [27] So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." [28] Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" [29] So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. [30] And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. [31] Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater.

Discussion Questions:

1. In vv. 21, it starts with "When these things were accomplished", what were *these things*?
2. In vv. 21 it also says that "Paul purposed in the Spirit".
 - What does this mean?
 - Have you ever *purposed in the Spirit*?
3. If Paul was committed, zealous, and filled with the spirit, how could Timothy and Erastus possibly have ministered to him as mentioned in vv.22?
4. What concerns did Demetrius have vv. 25-27 and why?
5. What effect did Demetrius' speech have on others?
6. What is a shrine? How does God feel about idolatry? (Exodus 20:1-6; Colossians 3:5; Jonah 2:8; 1 John 5:21)
7. Read vv. 28-29. Imagine this happening, what did it sound like?
 - Does this type of chanting still happen today? Give examples.
 - How can someone get caught up in doing something like this?
 - Is it sin? If not, when does it become sin?
 - How can you better use this time (talent and treasure) to worship and honor God instead?