

Acts: Riot in Ephesus

 *Oct 4*



**INTRODUCTION:**  In Ephesus Paul & Co.’s ministry was very effective. Luke has given 2 positive responses and 2 negative responses of witness; the latter having a silver lining. Many heard and responded to the Gospel (vv. 10 & 20). Today’s story illustrates this and provides a vindication similar to that in Corinth (Gallio, Acts 18:12–17).

**KEY POINT:** accusations, idolatry, vindication

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (1 Cor 12, A Healthy Body for Mission)

* How do we join the universal body?
* Why do we identify with a local body?
* Why are we called to serve in the body?
* How does a healthy body help grow the body?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Mt 3:7–17, God’s Children)

* What was the sermon about?
* What were the key points?
* Key takeaways…? Questions to keep considering?

 **READ:** Acts 19:21–41

**QUESTIONS:**

Plans, vv. 21–22

1. *Paul had a plan to visit the churches and bring aid to the believers of Judea (Acts 24:17). He also had a BIG vision (though his name means “small”), which ultimately included Spain (Ro 15:24, 28).* Why did he want to go to Rome and Spain?
2. Why do you think he lingered in Ephesus a little bit longer?

Rome had no case against Christianity. Opposition was purely emotional and Christians had nothing real to fear from the authorities.

1. **Do you have a vision to become the best Christian you can be, to seek God’s will for your life, to tell others about Jesus, to see MBC fulfil the Great Commission?**

Origin of Riot, vv. 23–27

1. *Demetrius, maybe the president of the silversmiths guild, had a cunning plan.* **What was his true motive (note this reason often appears in Acts)?**
2. **How might Markdale bring an economic charge against us if our witness became this effective?**
3. **How had preaching the Gospel harmed idolatry (especially the 2nd commandment)? How was it a clash between Jesus and Diana?**
4. **Like Satan (the ‘angel of light’) how did Demetrius add patriotic and respectable motives as a cover-up? How is this often the way with liars?**

Course of Riot, vv. 28–34

1. Was there any real reason for the riot? How did it start? **What does this teach us about mob rule or trends on social media?**
2. *They went, probably along the main street, into the theatre, 500’ in diameter with a 25K seating capacity. Alexander was probably there to disassociate the synagogue from the church.*
3. Why was Paul prevented from speaking? Who, interestingly, came to his defence?
4. **How is this a caricature of the best paganism can offer against the truth?**

End of Riot, 35–41

1. *The city clerk, its chief official, was a wise man.* What were his key points that ended the madness? While not a guarantee, how does it pay to be reasonable? (Phil 4:5).
2. **Why do you think Luke chose to include this story of Roman allies (Asiarchs and Clerk) and legal vindication?[[1]](#footnote-1)**
3. **In Canada today, what is the substance of most arguments made against Christians? Still today Christians are vindicated (**[**here**](https://archive.christianconcern.com/our-issues/equality/victory-for-freedom-of-expression-bakers-win-supreme-court-case#:~:text=The%20court%20found%20that%20the,message%20with%20which%20they%20disagreed.)**). How should this encourage us?**

**NEXT:** Oct 11- Acts 21:1–16, Paul Goes to Jerusalem

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)