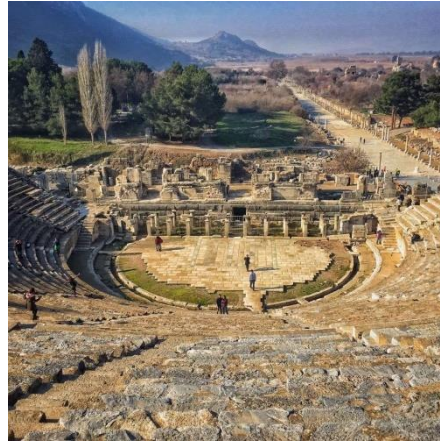




Acts: Riot in Ephesus

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?

3. **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

4. *Demetrius, maybe the president of the silversmiths guild, had a cunning plan. What was his true motive (note this reason often appears in Acts)?*
5. **How might Markdale bring an economic charge against us if our witness became this effective?**
6. **How had preaching the Gospel harmed idolatry (especially the 2nd commandment)? How was it a clash between Jesus and Diana?**
7. **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

8. 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?**
9. *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.*
10. Why was Paul prevented from speaking? Who, interestingly, came to his defence?
11. **How is this a caricature of the best paganism can offer against the truth?**

End of Riot, 35-41

12. *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).*
13. **Why do you think Luke chose to include this story of Roman allies (Asiarchs and Clerk) and legal vindication?¹**
14. **In Canada today, what is the substance of most arguments made against Christians? Still today**

¹

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

Christians are vindicated ([here](#)). How should this encourage us?

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