

In the sermon we heard that if Paul had directly attacked the people of the city of Ephesus and their worship of Artemis, he would have been considered disrespectful and godless and it's highly unlikely he would have had friends amongst the officials, and a city clerk who was willing and able to convince the crowd as he did.

How might Paul have engaged in clear and uncompromising gospel ministry in Ephesus, without directly attacking their worship of Artemis?

What evidence do you see in this account, that Paul's gospel ministry did actually challenge the worship of other gods?

What lessons can we draw for gospel ministry in our context today? Can you think of examples that illustrate what this might look like?

Finish by praying for each other, that as followers of Jesus, we wouldn't be known for what we oppose, so much as we are known for what we promote: the justice, grace, mercy and love of God in Jesus.



Acts: Go
Growth Group Study Guide
Week 7
“Ephesus the Enemy?”
28 November 2021
Acts 19:23-41

Series Overview:

The Book of Acts is the second part of the writing from Luke (the first part was the Gospel of Luke). Acts is a dynamic book detailing the beginning of Christ's Church, as the good news of Jesus Christ spread from 120 ordinary people, to the worldwide movement we see today. In Matthew 28: 18-20, we read how Jesus commissioned His followers to “Go”, and in the book of Acts we see the outworking of that commission. As we spend a few weeks digesting the stories and truths from Acts, our desire and prayer is that we will discover afresh, the hope, passion and dynamic of a small group of people, transformed by the love of Christ and empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit to witness to God's great plan for all people.

'In Australia today Christians are better known for what they oppose, than what they are for.' Do you agree? Provide examples to support your view.

As those called to engage in the mission of God to be and make disciples, today we ask: What posture should we take towards the people and culture around us, especially when we see things that wouldn't be pleasing to God?

The account in Acts 19:23-41 about 'the riot in Ephesus' is helpful for us in this, as it provides important insight into the apostle Paul's posture towards the culture in Ephesus.

In the sermon on Sunday, we looked at some of the characteristics of the city of Ephesus. What similarities do you see to our context in Australia today?

Paul and his companions settle into about 3 years of ministry in Ephesus. Review Acts 19:1-22. Why would it be fair to say it was a successful ministry?

Read vv23-27. What was the basis of Demetrius' accusation against Paul?

Read vv28-34. In the sermon we saw that Demetrius' accusations were serious in the ancient world, amounting to 'impiety' (disrespect and godlessness). How does this help us understand the extreme response of the people in these verses?

Read vv35-41. Describe the role played by the city clerk in this incident.

Why do you think the city clerk intervened in this way? What do you think this tells us about Paul's reputation in the city?