



SERIES:	44 Acts – 2017
MESSAGE:	Acts 19:23-20:16
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Acts 19:23-20:16

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In Ephesus, the gospel had transformed not only lives, but local economies as well. One tradesman who had made a living crafting silver statues of the temple of Diana instigated a riot against Paul and his teaching. After this ordeal—and accompanied by many disciples and regional church leaders—Paul left Ephesus for Macedonia en route to Jerusalem. Along the way, he continued to teach and encourage new believers in their faith.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Early Christians were called the Way
 - 1. Christianity is the way
 - 2. Jesus is the Way (see John 14:6)
- B. Confusion arose surrounding the Way (see Acts 19:23)
 - 1. Small silver statues of the temple of Diana were sold for personal worship by Demetrius in Ephesus
 - 2. Demetrius gathered other tradesmen to complain about the gospel turning people from idols, affecting their income
 - 3. By spreading the gospel, Paul had caused economic trouble
- C. Paul's testimony was affirmed: people turned away from idols and false worship
- D. Ephesus and Asia Minor were transformed by the gospel

II. Acts 19:30-41 | The riot at Ephesus

- A. Paul was in danger in Ephesus
 - 1. Disciples and friends asked Paul not to go into the crowd in the theater
 - 2. Paul was friends with government officials in the secular world
 - 3. Initially, governments did not see Christianity as a threat
- B. The crowd didn't know why they had gathered
 - 1. Alexander addressed the crowd
 - a. Alexander was a leading Jewish citizen
 - b. He was against Paul and the Christian movement
 - c. Possibly same Alexander mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:20
 - 2. Paul later referred to this riot as having "fought with beasts" (1 Corinthians 15:32)
 - 3. City clerk quieted the crowd, shut down the disorderly assembly, and referred those gathered to the legal/court system
- C. Ephesians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Revelation 2 are all that remain from Ephesus

1. Diana, her idols, temples, and worshipers are gone
 2. Jesus' letter to the Ephesians acknowledges their perseverance, but says they left their first love—God (see Revelation 2:1-4)
 3. There was a generation that received the gospel, but the Christian testimony in Ephesus is now vacant
- III. Acts 20:1-12 | Paul leaves Ephesus for Macedonia
- A. Paul was supposed to go to Jerusalem, but went back to Macedonia to take up the financial offering
 - B. Luke drew parallels between Jesus and Paul going to Jerusalem
 1. Both went with disciples
 2. Both were opposed by hostile Jews
 3. Both made three predictions that they would suffer in Jerusalem
 4. Both were determined to go to Jerusalem
 5. Both were ready and willing to die for the gospel
 - C. Paul encouraged Macedonian believers
 - D. Many traveled with Paul to Jerusalem; likely were representatives from churches who gave offerings to the church in Jerusalem
 - E. Before they departed for Jerusalem, they gathered together
 1. It was the first day of the week—a Sunday, the Sabbath
 2. They shared an agape meal and the Lord's Supper
 3. Paul spoke until midnight
 4. Eutychus, a *neanias* (a youth, young man), fell asleep then fell out the window
 5. He was pronounced dead, but Paul resurrected him
 6. Paul continued speaking until daybreak
- IV. Acts 20:13-16 | Paul and friends travel toward Jerusalem
- A. The disciples sailed to Assos but Paul walked the twenty miles
 1. He believed in "redeeming the time" (see Ephesians 5:15-16)
 2. Paul knew he may never see these people again
 3. He took every opportunity to disciple believers
 - B. Paul got on board; they sailed near to Ephesus again toward Jerusalem
- V. Closing
- A. Eutychus fell asleep where the heat was hot and the light was bright
 - B. Paul reminded believers that our time is short (see Romans 13:11-12)

Figures referenced: Artemis, Diana, Homer, Pythagoras

Greek words: neanias

Cross references: John 14:6; Romans 13:11-12; 1 Corinthians 15:32; Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 2:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:20; Revelation 2:1-4

Topic: Evangelism

Keywords: agape meal, cult, disciple, idol, resurrect, Sabbath, secular, worship