

## PAGANISM'S REACTION TO CHRISTIANITY - A RIOT!

(Acts 19:23-41)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 1-2)
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 3-7)
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (chapters 8-12)
- IV. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (chapters 13-28)

- A. Paul Ministers in the City of Ephesus (19:1-10)
- B. The Apostle Paul with God-given Supernatural Power (19:11-12)
- C. The Seven Sons of Sceva with Inadequate Power (19:13-20)
- D. Paul's Future Plans for A Trip to Macedonia and Achaia (19:21-22)
- E. The Effects of the Gospel on Ephesian Society and Religion (19:23-41)

1. Christianity ("*the Way*") had such a profound influence in the city of Ephesus, the local pagan silversmiths got together for a meeting where the ringleader Demetrius presented his arguments. (vv. 23-24)
  - a. His appeal was that as craftsmen, they made their \_\_\_\_\_ in this trade of making silver \_\_\_\_\_ of their patron saint, the infamous goddess Artemis. (v. 25)
  - b. No greater compliment could come from Paul's critics that because he had spread the Gospel throughout \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, many people \_\_\_\_\_ worshipped idols. (v. 26)
  - c. Demetrius's approach for stirring up a riot was to appeal to his fellow workmen's \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and then to encourage them to hide their greed behind the mask of \_\_\_\_\_ loyalty. (v. 27)
2. Demetrius' strategy worked, the silversmiths flew into a \_\_\_\_\_ while chanting "*Great is Diana of the Ephesians;*" they were able to \_\_\_\_\_ a riot and rushed to the Ephesian amphitheater (which could hold about 25,000 people). (vv. 28-29a)
3. Most of the confused crowd \_\_\_\_\_ even know what was happening or why they were there, but since they could not find Paul, they \_\_\_\_\_ two of his known \_\_\_\_\_ Gaius and Aristarchus. (v. 29)

4. Paul seems to have been elsewhere when this riot broke out; however, he wanted to go into the theater, but his friends \_\_\_\_\_ him, knowing that he would be \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 30-31)
  
5. The situation in the amphitheater was complete chaos; swept up in mob hysteria, most of the people \_\_\_\_\_ even \_\_\_\_\_ what they were \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 32)
  
6. The Jews pulled a man out of the crowd by the name of Alexander, so he climbed on stage as their spokesman.
  - a. Alexander \_\_\_\_\_ get a chance to speak, because the pagan Gentile crowd realized he was \_\_\_\_\_ – they basically plugged their ears and chanted. (vv. 33-34a)
  
  - b. The wild throng then went into a hysterical \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ hours, “*Great is Diana of the Ephesians!*” (v. 34b)
  
7. Finally, the city clerk (equivalent to a modern mayor), restored order.
  - a. He essentially claimed that there was \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian preachers could do that would possibly affect the great goddess Diana, her \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 35-36)
  
  - b. The clerk then \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd that despite Demetrius’ claims, they brought these two men into the theater without a fair, \_\_\_\_\_ trial in the courts. (vv. 37-39)
  
  - c. Finally, this city official explained that if the Romans investigated this uproar, the citizens of Ephesus would be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ their actions and the Romans could \_\_\_\_\_ privileges; this caused the crowd to quietly exit the theater. (vv. 40-41)

\* What can you personally apply from this passage today