

Readings

Scripture

¹¹ And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷ And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. ¹⁸ Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. ¹⁹ And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

²¹ Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²² And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵ These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. ³⁰ But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him.

³¹ And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. ³² Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵ And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

- Acts 19:11-41 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Turning the World Right-side Up!
Acts 19:11-41

The Acts of the Apostles
Brad Anderson

This is what Jesus continued to do and teach after he was taken up... (Acts 1:1-3)

Now Jesus uses Paul to take the gospel to Ephesus...

What two things do we discover when Paul arrives in Ephesus?

We see that Jesus is leading people into a new way of life... (Acts 19:11-20)

- By powerfully unseating spiritual authorities...
- By powerfully healing diseases...
- By powerfully demonstrating the emptiness of an old way of living...

2. We see that Jesus continues to cause "no little disturbance"... (Acts 19:21-40)

- Economically...
- Socially/Politically...
- Spiritually...
- Physically...
- Emotionally...

Reflection Questions *(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)*

- Which book or movie sequel was, for you, as good or better than the original? Which book or movie do you wish would produce a sequel?
- Read Acts 1:1-3 and Acts 19 out loud as a group. How does Luke indicate that Jesus continues his ministry of doing and teaching in Acts 19?
- John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus and His gospel ministry. (Read John 1:19-34 to see how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus) Looking back, can you identify some ways that Jesus was at work in you before you were aware of him in a personal way?
- Read Acts 19:17-20. When you came to faith in Jesus Christ, what had to change? What marked your repentance on that day? How does belief in Jesus Christ enable repentance and open confession of evil?
- Describe the environment in which you came to faith in Jesus Christ. Describe the environment using the following categories: Economic, Social, Spiritual/Political, Physical, Emotional, other?
- Describe the sacred idols of Ephesus. (Read Acts 19:23-29) What happened when those sacred idols were threatened?
- Success, money, and independence are examples of sacred idols (values that most people accept without question) in our culture. How has your faith in Jesus Christ affected your relationship with these idols? What would happen in our culture if large numbers of Christians challenged these idols?