

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **November 22, 2020** sermon, "No Little Disturbance." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 19:21-41) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN THE UNBELIEVING COMMUNITY FEELS THREATENED BY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, NOTE . . .

1. The vested interests opposing God's work. (21-27)
 - a. Demetrius is a silversmith who makes his living by selling silver idols in the marketplace.
 - i. His main objective is to protect his own wealth and ability to make money.
 - ii. He represents a guild of people who hate Paul's gospel-centered influence.
 - iii. They stir up "no little disturbance," a chaotic campaign against believers.
 - b. Paul is willing to lose his life if necessary, committing himself to proclaim Jesus.
 - c. "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."
-Jim Elliot
2. The spiritual confusion surrounding God's work. (28-34)
 - a. Emotions will run high and (irrational) accusations may fly.
 - b. Wisdom is needed. Paul is kept out of the center of this life-threatening uprising.
3. The unexpected intervention protecting God's work. (35-41)
 - a. The town clerk at Ephesus talks sense into the crowd.
 - i. All unbelievers are not maligning Christian rights and freedoms.
 - ii. The message of Christianity is not to denigrate Artemis, but to lift Jesus high.
 - b. The town clerk quells the mob, appealing to civilized use of the courts.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: The spread of Christianity actually impacted the way that people spent their money. Less and less people were buying silver idols because they were worshiping God. What businesses would or should be going out of business because of the spread of noble-minded, God-focused, Word-based Christ-exalters? (i.e., gambling, sexual sins, and other "idols") Note that Christians were not "trying to" boycott certain industries, but were exalting Jesus.
2. Based on #1, above: Demetrius wanted to protect his money (he was trying to retain what he could not keep); Paul was willing to give up what he could not lose (his life in Christ). How do we hold on to the temporary? How do we sometimes lose our grip on the eternal? When is the last time you had to risk something in order to proclaim Jesus? Tell us about it.
3. Based on #2, above: Many will protest Christianity without fully understanding the claims and aims of Christ or his followers. Note that no Christian speaks against Demetrius or silversmiths or even idols in this passage. Are you known for your Christ-exalting way of life? Or your boycotting and critical crusades?
4. Based on #2, above: Paul is nowhere to be found at this dangerous demonstration. It is sometimes wise for leaders to avoid public disputes about Christianity. Discuss.
5. Based on #3, above: Even the enemies of Christianity can be fair-minded people. Discuss.