



Lesson 27 – Days of Toil and Trial

Based on Acts 19:21-41; 20:1

For over three years Ephesus was the center of Paul's work. A flourishing church was raised up here, and from this city the gospel spread throughout the province of Asia, among both Jews and Gentiles. The apostle had now for some time been contemplating another missionary journey.

- 1) Where did Paul hope to go to plant the seeds of the Gospel?

Acts 19:21 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see _____.

- 2) Who did he send ahead of him?

Acts 19:22 So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, _____ and _____; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

Feeling that the cause in Ephesus still demanded his presence, he decided to remain until after Pentecost. An event soon occurred, however, which hastened his departure.

- 3) What was happening?

Acts 19:23-26 And the same time there arose no small _____ about that way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small _____ unto the craftsmen; Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our _____. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no _____, which are made with hands:

Paul's labors had given the heathen worship a telling blow, in consequence of which there was a perceptible falling off in the attendance at the national festival and in the enthusiasm of the worshipers. The influence of his teachings extended far beyond the actual converts to the faith. Many who had not openly accepted the new doctrines became so far enlightened as to lose all confidence in their heathen gods.

There existed also another cause of dissatisfaction. An extensive and profitable business had grown up at Ephesus from the manufacture and sale of small shrines and images, modeled after the temple and the image of Diana. Those interested in this industry found their gains diminishing, and all united in attributing the unwelcome change to Paul's labors.

- 4) How successful were the efforts of the Christians there in Ephesus?

Acts 19:27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be _____, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

- 5) What did the followers of Diana do?

Acts 19:25-29 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of _____, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they _____ with one accord into the theatre.



6) Where was Paul during this?

Acts 19:30-31 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not _____ into the theatre.

Search was made for Paul, but the apostle was not to be found. His brethren, receiving an intimation of the danger, had hurried him from the place. Angels of God had been sent to guard the apostle; his time to die a martyr's death had not yet come.

7) How did things escalate?

Acts 19:32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was _____; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together.

8) What did the troublemakers do to make things worse for Paul?

Acts 19:33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And _____ beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

The fact that Paul and some of his companions were of Hebrew extraction made the Jews anxious to show plainly that they were not sympathizers with him and his work. They therefore brought forward one of their own number to set the matter before the people.

9) What did Paul say about Alexander later?

2 Timothy 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much _____: the Lord reward him according to his works:

Alexander was a man of considerable ability, and he bent all his energies to direct the wrath of the people exclusively against Paul and his companions. But the crowd, seeing that Alexander was a Jew, thrust him aside.

At last, from sheer exhaustion, they ceased, and there was a momentary silence. Then the recorder of the city arrested the attention of the crowd, and by virtue of his office obtained a hearing. He met the people on their own ground and showed that there was no cause for the present tumult.

10) Why did he address the mob?

Acts 19:40 For we are in _____ to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse.

Rome ruled with a heavy hand. If they got word of an uprising, any uprising, they would crush it speedily with brutal force.

11) What did Town Clerk say to the mob?

Acts 19:35-36 And when the townclerk had _____ the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter? Seeing then that these things cannot be _____ against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly.



Acts 19:37-39 For ye have brought hither these men, which are _____ robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a _____.

The decision of the recorder and of others holding honorable offices in the city had set Paul before the people as one innocent of any unlawful act. This was another triumph of Christianity over error and superstition. God had raised up a great magistrate to vindicate His apostle and hold the tumultuous mob in check. Paul's heart was filled with gratitude to God that his life had been preserved and that Christianity had not been brought into disrepute by the tumult at Ephesus.

12) Where did Paul go when it was over?

Acts 20:1 And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.

Paul's labors in Ephesus were concluded. His ministry there had been a season of incessant labor, of many trials, and of deep anguish. He had taught the people in public and from house to house, with many tears instructing and warning them. Continually he had been opposed by the Jews, who lost no opportunity to stir up the popular feeling against him.

Amidst the constant storm of opposition, the clamor of enemies, and the desertion of friends the intrepid apostle almost lost heart. But he looked back to Calvary and with new ardor pressed on to spread the knowledge of the Crucified. He was but treading the blood-stained path that Christ had trodden before him. He sought no discharge from the warfare till he should lay off his armor at the feet of his Redeemer.

Can you see we need to be all in?

Do you want to be all in?

When is the time to renounce worldly ways?