
Sermon Summary

The second half of Acts chapter 19 concerns a riot that happened in the city as a result of the impact that the gospel was making amongst the Ephesians. Luke is probably including this account to put on record the facts of the matter, so as to vindicate the Christian community and quash any rumours that they were anything but law-abiding citizens. The underlying cause of this riot was not the spread of the church in Ephesus, but rather the greed of men like Demetrius.

Personal Application

Q How big an impact do you think becoming or being a disciple of Christ should have on your life? Why? What might it look like?

Q Read v23-27. What is it that Demetrius is so upset about? What do you think that he and his the other craftsmen really care about?

Q Read v28-32. Why do you think the riot happens? Why is public opinion such a powerful force?

Q Read v33-41. In what ways does public opinion clash with God’s Word today? Why do you think people sometimes champion a cause that they haven’t really thought through?

Q What does this chapter tell us about the costs that will inevitably be involved in being a church that refuses to compromise on God’s truth?
Acts chapter 20 gives us a wonderful insight into the community of churches that had been planted through the missionary journeys of Paul and his co-workers. We are entering the last phase in the book where Paul’s missionary journeys are coming to an end and he is now heading to Jerusalem where he knows that prison and hardship are awaiting him. But the legacy he leaves behind is a strong community of churches founded on the Apostles Doctrine.

**Personal Application**

**Q** What advice would you give a young person who is leaving home and wants to find a good local church to join?

**Q** Read v1-6. Why is Paul visiting these churches again (v2)? What does v4 tell you about the group of men that Paul travelled and ministered with?

**Q** Look at what Paul writes about some of these churches: What do these letters reveal about them?

2 Corinthians 8:1-6

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Philippians 1:3-5

Romans 15:25-27

**Q** Read v7-12. The incident with Eutychus has a striking parallel with 1 Kings 17:17-24. What does this miracle prove to the widow (v24)? What does this incident tell us about the church in Troas? What then is the cause of the generosity, maturity, unity and mission focus of these early churches?

**Q** How have the priorities of many local churches changed today? How can we imitate the good example of these 1st Century Christians?
In the first half of Acts chapter 20 we saw how the churches planted through the ministry of Paul and his co-workers prioritised the ministry of the Word of God, “the Apostle’s teaching” (Acts 2:42). This is what made the churches a vibrant, generous community, growing in faithfulness and maturity, producing ministers of quality. In the second half of the chapter we see Paul talking with the Elders of the church in Ephesus, reminding them of the essential content of what he taught and warning them to protect the church from anyone who would try to distort that teaching.

Why is it so important that we pass on the Gospel accurately and faithfully? In what way do people try to change it today?

Read v17-21. How does Paul sum up the Gospel that he preached to them in v21? Can we share the gospel without including both of these things? What happens if we don’t include both?

Read v22-24. What lies ahead for Paul? Why is he still planning to go to Jerusalem? How would you sum up Paul’s philosophy in v24? Does this challenge you?

Read v25-31. What is Paul saying in v26-27? Who are these “savage wolves”, where do they come from, what do they want to do and why? How will the Elders protect the church from them?

Read v32-38. How did people know that Paul was not a savage wolf and that the Gospel he preached was authentic?

How can we guard ourselves against distorting the Gospel?