

Trouble in Ephesus
Lesson #14
Acts 19:23-41

Setting the Stage - Acts 19:23-25a

1. Sometime during Paul's three year visit to Ephesus, "*There arose a great disturbance about the Way.*" (Acts 19:23) A man named Demetrius became the primary agitator in that disturbance. What did Luke record about him? (Acts 19:24)

2. One cannot create a disturbance alone so Demetrius sought help from others. To whom did Demetrius turn for support? (Acts 19:25a)

Demetrius' Speech - Acts 19:25b-27

3. Demetrius began setting these men up by reminding them that they "*receive a good income from this business.*" (Acts 19:25b) But, there was a danger in the making. Using Acts 19:26:
 - Who did Demetrius point out as a serious threat to them?

 - Why did he say he had become a danger?

 - What was being taught that caused Demetrius to take offense?

4. Take a moment and look closely at that last statement. Please comment on anything that stands out to you.

5. The real motivation for Demetrius' argument is somewhat disguised. Using Acts 19:27, what three reasons did he give to prove they were in eminent danger?

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6. Those were Demetrius' stated reasons, but what do you think his true motivation for this was?

Near Riot in Ephesus - Acts 19:28-41

7. Demetrius' speech had the desired effect on the men. What was their immediate reaction? (Acts 19:28)
8. With all that shouting, "*soon the whole city was in an uproar.*" With the whole crowd stirred up, what course of action did they take? (Acts 19:29)
9. This "*theater*" was an outdoor amphitheater that had seating for about 25,000 people. It didn't take long before Paul became aware of the commotion taking place in the city and planned to go to the theater. What stopped him from going? (Acts 19:30, 31)
10. Describe the atmosphere in the theater at that moment. (Acts 19:32)
11. That last sentence clearly describes the typical riot scene. There was a commotion, so people joined in out of curiosity, but "*most of the people did not even know why they were there.*" Who were the first ones to try to establish order and how? (Acts 19:33)

- Were they successful? (Acts 19:34)
12. Who finally gained control of the crowd? (Acts 19:35a)
 13. Addressing them as “*men of Ephesus*,” what did he say that finally quieted down the crowd? (Acts 19:35b)
 14. What was his assessment of the situation? (Acts 19:36)
 15. What did he say about:
 - Gaius and Aristarchus? (Acts 19:37)

 - Demetrius? (Acts 19:38)

 - The crowd in general? (Acts 19:39)
 16. What word of warning did he give to this crowd? (Acts 19:40)
 17. What action did he take? (Acts 19:41)

During Paul's extended stay in Ephesus, he received news that there was trouble in the church at Corinth. Paul and Silas had established that church during their second missionary journey and had spent eighteen months in Corinth teaching and training the new disciples. (Acts 18:1-22) According to 1 Corinthians 5:9, Paul immediately wrote a short letter to them with instructions to correct some of the issues. Unfortunately, that letter has not survived. Then, in 55 A.D., Paul received additional reports that the problems were persisting, so he wrote a second letter which in the New Testament has the title of 1 Corinthians. As we continue our chronological journey, we now turn to the first letter to the Corinthians.