



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 32:
"Riot in Ephesus!"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 19:23-41 and selected passages

1. Can you think of any examples (modern or otherwise) when Christianity was viewed as a "threat" to another institution or industry? Why was Christianity viewed this way? What actions did people take in response to this "threat?"

2. Why was Paul's message threatening to Demetrius, the silversmith (Acts 19:26)? What was at stake from Demetrius' perspective (Acts 19:27)? How was Demetrius' perspective grossly inaccurate (Psalm 115:4-8; 1 Corinthians 8:4)?

3. Why did Paul's disciples not allow him to enter the theater in Ephesus (Acts 19:30-31)? What was Paul hoping to accomplish and why was he not afraid of this mob (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 9:16)?

4. Why are we scared to share the gospel? If Paul was willing to endure an angry mob, why do we often hesitate to speak up or stand up for the truth of Christ (2 Timothy 1:7-8)?

5. How did this crowd exhibit what's typically referred to as "mob mentality" (Acts 19:32, 34; see also Acts 21:34)? Have you ever been involved in a confusing situation like this? What happened and how was the situation, if at all, resolved?

6. Why would the town/city clerk attempt to quiet the crowd so quickly, pointing them towards the legal courts (Acts 19:39-40)? What danger might this riot have posed in the eyes of the Roman government?

7. What does this event from Paul's life demonstrate about the motives that some people have when they oppose the truth of Christianity (see Romans 1:18-19; Psalm 10:4; 14:1)? How does this encourage you to pray for those who do not know Jesus Christ?

Memory Verse:

"You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all."

(Acts 19:26, NASB)