

Journey Through Acts
“No Small Stir”
Acts 19:21-40

Introduction:

1. As We Continue:
 - Our ***Journey Through Acts*** Tonight:
 - Please Join Me In:
 - Acts 19 - Where We Come To:
 - One Of The Most Dramatic Events In Early Church History:
 - “The Uproar In Ephesus!”
2. So - Once Again:
 - We Are In The Ancient City:
 - **Of Ephesus:**
 - Which Today Is In The Country Of Turkey!
 - But - While The Apostle Paul:
 - Was In This City:
 - Of Both Opportunities & Obstacles:
 - For The Gospel - He Feels Stirred To Branch Out Even Further:
 - In His Missionary Endeavor!
 - And So - In 19:21-22- We Are Told:
 - “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 Rome. / So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season!”
3. **Here Is What The Layout Of Ephesus Might Have Been:**
 - And So - While Here - Paul Makes Plans:
 - To Return To The Churches:
 - In Greece - Probably To Help Collect An Offering From Them:
 - To Take To The Suffering Church In Jerusalem!
 - But Then - He Sets His Sights Even Further!
 - To Rome Itself!
 - But - As Timothy & Erastus:
 - Go Ahead - To Make Preparations For Paul’s Visit:
 - He Decides To Stay In Ephesus For A Few More Months!
 - And What A Time That Would Turn Out To Be!
4. Because - As Luke Recounts The Story:
 - In 19:23 - “And the same time there arose no small stir about that way!”
 - “No Small Stir!”
 - And That Is An Understatement - Because Of What Happens Next!
 - In 19:24-27 - “For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; / 25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. / 26 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 gods, which are made with hands: / 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 despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth!”
 - The City Of Ephesus Was Known:
 - For Its Grand Temple To The Goddess:
 - Diana - Which Is The Roman Name Of The Greek Goddess Artemis!
 - **Here Is A Model:**
 - Of What That Temple Might Have Looked Like:
 - Which Is Why It Was Considered To Be:
 - One Of Seven Wonders Of The Ancient World!
 - Though It Was About A Bit More Than A Mile:
 - Away From The City - The Ephesians Were The Custodians Of Both The Temple & The Image Of The Goddess!
 - And So - It Was A True Statement That:

- “All Asia And The World” Would Come To Ephesus To Worship This Idol!
- Of Course - We Know That:
 - “An Idol Is Nothing In The World, And That There Is None Other God But One!” (1 Corinthians 8:4)
 - **And Here Is One Proof Of That!**
 - Here Are The Ruins:
 - Where That Great Temple Once Stood - With But One Forlorn Column Looking Over Them!
- 5. But - The Craftsmen & Colleagues:
 - Of Demetrius - Had Heard Enough!
 - And So - In 19:28 - “And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”
 - More Than Likely - This Was A Motto / Slogan:
 - That Was Prominent In Ephesus At That Time!
 - But - This Time - They Shouted It With All Their Might!
 - And It Got The Attention Of The Entire Town!
 - 19:29 - “And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul’s companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre!”
 - **This Theater:**
 - Is Still One Of The Most Prominent Landmarks:
 - Of Ancient Ephesus!
 - And - Up Until A Few Years Ago, It Still Used For Public Gatherings And Concerts!
 - But - As The Riot In Ephesus Gathered Steam:
 - It Was To This Theater:
 - They Rushed - Grabbing Two Of The Christian Brethren - To Enact Some Kind Of Swift Justice!
 - **Here Is Another Slide Of The Theater:**
 - Looking Toward The Street That Lead To The City Port!
 - 6. But - When Paul Heard About The Danger:
 - His Companions Were In:
 - 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 adventure himself into the theatre!”
 - Though Paul Cared For His Brethren:
 - Likewise, His Brethren - And Even Some Of The Public Officials - Cared For Him!
 - And So - He Had To Wait And See What God Would Do!
 - But - Like Most Mobs - Even Today:
 - 19:32 - “Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together!”
 - Most Of The City:
 - Didn’t Even Know What Was Going On!
 - But The Jews Did! Since “The Way” Was Still Associated With The Jews - They Wanted To Defend Themselves!
 - 7. This Is Why - In 19:33-34:
 - “And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. / 34 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!”
 - Alexander’s Attempt To Defend The Jews:
 - Was To No Avail! In Fact:
 - It Brought The Mob To A Fever Pitch!
 - And They Chanted For Around Two Whole Hours:
 - “Great Is Diana / Artemis Of The Ephesians!”
 - In The Greek Language - This Chant Is Even More Forceful!
 - **“Megale He-Artemis Ephesion!”**
 - 8. But - After Two Hours Of This:
 - God - In His Providence - Brought Forth:
 - A City Official - The Recorder - Who Knew The Law:
 - Because He Would Record The Law:

- In The Books Of The City!

- 19:35-41 - "And when the townclerk had appeased 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? / 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly. / 37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. / 38 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. / 39 But if ye enquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly. / 40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse. / 41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly!"

- So - In This Way:

- God Protected His Young Flock There In Ephesus:

- And Prodded Paul Along His Way!

- Which We See Next In 20:1 - "And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia!"

8. What A Remarkable Episode:

- In The History Of The Church!

- But - I Want To Draw Your Attention Back:

- To 19:23 - Where Luke Describes The Uproar For Us In This Way:

- As - "**No Small Stir!**" (2x)

- What Was It That Caused This:

- Great Disturbance & Uproar:

- In Ephesus?

- And - I Wonder - Could This Still Be Said Today?

- Is There **Still A Stir** About This Way? The Way Of Christ & The Gospel?

- What Caused This Great Stir?

- I Think We Can See Four Clear Reasons:

- In The Verses We Just Read!

*First - Because Of:

1. **The Touch Of The Way!**

- In The Address Of Demetrius:

- To The Other Craftsmen In The Town:

- He Tells Us What Was Going On There In Ephesus As Well As The Entire Province Of Asia!

- 19:26 - "Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people!"

- It Was The Wide Reach & Penetrating Touch:

- Of The Gospel - That First Got The Attention:

- Of Demetrius!

- Luke Tells Us Back In 19:10 - How That - "All they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks!"

- The Gospel Was Touching Hearts:

- And Transforming Lives:

- Of Countless Souls All Throughout The Region!

- And It Got Noticed!

- No Longer Would These New Believers:

- Need To Travel To Ephesus:

- To The Temple Of Their Old Goddess:

- Because - Through The Indwelling Presence Of The Holy Spirit - They Were Now The "Temple Of The One & True God!"

- And It Was The Touch Of The Gospel:

- That Started This Stir:

- In Ephesus!

- But Then Also - It Was Because Of:

2. **The Truth Of The Way!**

- Did You Notice What Demetrius:

- Told His Colleagues - There At The End Of 19:26?
 - He Gives The Words Of Paul & The Other Christians As:
 - “Saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands!”
- That Is - Paul Was Preaching & Teaching:
 - The Truth!
 - And Demetrius Heard This Message Loudly:
 - And Understood This Message Clearly!
- As We See All Through Scripture:
 - Those Things “Made With Hands” - And Then:
 - Worshiped By Men:
 - Are **Not** Gods!
 - Psalm 115:4-8 Puts It This Way - “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. / 5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: / 6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: / 7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. / 8 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them!”
- And Demetrius Knew What:
 - Paul Taught About The Gods He Worshiped! Including Diana!
 - He Heard The Truth:
 - Yet He Didn’t Even Consider It To Be True About His Gods!
 - His Eyes Were Blind, And His Heart Was Hardened:
 - To The Truth!
- But - It Was The Truth Of The Gospel:
 - That Created “No Small Stir”:
 - There In Ephesus!
 - For It Was The Truth That Further Lead To:

3. ***The Threat Of The Way!***

- When The Touch & The Truth Of The Gospel:
 - Hit Home With Demetrius - And Became A Real Threat To Him:
 - Then - He Had To Act! And Bring Others Along With Him To Fight Against It!
 - According To Demetrius’ Own Words:
 - It Was:
 - A Threat To Their Prosperity!
 - 19:27a - “So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought!”
 - They Made Small Silver Trinkets - Carved With The Images Of The Temple & Artemis:
 - Like You Might Find At A Souvenir Shop!
 - But These Trinkets Were Shrines, That People Would Buy & Take Home With Them:
 - To Continue Their Worship!
 - But - As More & More People:
 - Turned To Christ:
 - They Had No Need To Purchase Those Trinkets!
 - And This Must Have Been Noticeable!
 - Their Revenue & Profit Had Dropped Of Considerably!
 - And The Trend Remained Downward!
 - People Will Take Notice:
 - When Their Pocketbooks Takes A Hit!
 - But It Was Also:
 - A Threat To Their Piety & Pride!
 - Demetrius Goes On - In 19:27b - “But also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed!”
 - This Seems Like A Noble & A Pious Reason!
 - But - Notice - It Comes **After** The Threat To Their Prosperity!
 - But - Could Not Their Great Goddess:
 - In Her Grand Temple:
 - Defend Her Own Glory?
 - No - Demetrius Didn’t Even Think About That!

- But - Look At The Response:
 - After The Touch & The Truth Of The Gospel:
 - Became A Threat To The Very Way Of Life:
 - Of Those Ephesians!
 - It Turned From:
 - Just A Conference - To A Conniption!
 - 19:28 - "They Were Full Of Wrath!"
 - And From A Conniption - To A Cry!
 - 19:28 - "And Cried Out, Saying, Great Is Diana Of The Ephesians!"
 - ***"Megale He-Artemis Ephesion!"***
 - And From That Cry - To Confusion!
 - 19:29 - "And the whole city was filled with confusion!"
 - And From Confusion - To Persecution!
 - 19:29 - "And having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre!"
- This Was All Done - With The Desire:
 - To Eliminate The Threat:
 - Of Both The Message & The Ministers Of The Gospel!
 - And It Caused ***"No Small Stir!"***
 - But - I Think We See Another Reason As Well!
 - In The Speech Of The "TownClerk" - In 19:37:

4. ***The Testimony Of The Way***

- Because - "For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess!"
 - Both Gaius And Aristarchus:
 - Had A Testimony Beyond Reproach!
 - They Had Not:
 - Robbed From The Temple Of Diana!
 - Nor Had They:
 - Publically Denounced The Goddess Herself!
 - They Had Simply:
 - Let The Power Of God's Word & The Gospel:
 - Do Its Work!
 - They Didn't Convene Public Protests:
 - Around The Temple - With Picket Signs & Megaphones!
 - They Didn't Need To!
 - The Changed Lives:
 - Of Believers Was All The Testimony:
 - The Gospel - The Way - Needed!

Conclusion:

1. And This Caused - "No Small Stir" - "About That Way" - In Ephesus - That Day!
 - Could This Still Be Said Today?
 - If Not - Why Not?
 - Is The Touch Of The Gospel:
 - The Same Today - As It Was Then?
 - As Well As Its Reach?
 - Paul Wrote In Romans 1:16 - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek!"
 - The Touch Of The Gospel:
 - Remains Powerful To Change & Transform:
 - The Hearts & Lives Of Sinners:
 - Even Today!
 - Is The Truth Of The Gospel:
 - The Same Today - As It Was Then?
 - Well - If It Was True Then:

- It Remains True Today!
 - But - Are We Sticking To The Truth:
 - The Whole Truth & Nothing But The Truth:
 - When We Are Sharing The Gospel?
 - Is The Threat Of The Gospel:
 - The Same Today - As It Was Then?
 - It Certainly Can Be & Ought To Be!
 - But - Does The Gospel That The World Sees In Your Life:
 - Threaten Their Own World & Life Apart From God?
 - Is The Testimony Of The Gospel:
 - The Same Today - As It Was Then?
 - Is Your Life & Testimony:
 - One That Can Be Considered:
 - Beyond Reproach:
 - And Cause “No Small Stir” In The World Around You?
2. For Some Reason:
- The Stir In Ephesus That Day:
 - Waned!
 - Because Just A Few Decades Later:
 - The Apostle John Will Write To The Same Church These Words From Jesus:
 - In Revelation 2:1-4 - “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; / 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: / 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. / 4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love!”
 - Perhaps The Reason Why:
 - There Is So Little Stir Today:
 - Is Because God’s Own People:
 - And God’s Own Church:
 - Have Left Their First Love!
 - Can This Be Said Of You Tonight?

3. If So - Listen To The Rest:

 - Of The Words Of Jesus:
 - In Revelation 2:5 - “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent!”
 - Return To Your First Love!
 - Let The Touch & The Truth & The Threat & The Testimony:
 - Of The Gospel Shine Through Your Life!
 - So That - Once Again:
 - There Will Be “No Small Stir About That Way!”
 - And About Jesus!
 - That - “Way” & Truth & Life!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com