

A Riot in Ephesus

Acts 19:21-41

Introduction

The “wild beasts at Ephesus”

1 Corinthians 15:32

Whenever the Word of God is fearlessly and faithfully preached it is almost always met with persecution.

Acts 19:20

Persecution is a catalyst for gospel proliferation.

Acts 6:7

Acts 12:24

v21

2 Corinthians 9:1-5.

Romans 15:25-27

"I must also see Rome."

Romans 15:22-24

v22

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

Paul endured more fierce opposition here in Ephesus than perhaps anywhere else.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

Anatomy of a Riot

Fear of loss leads to: anger, identifying a perceived enemy, making accusations, rage spreads quickly, mobs form publicly, hasty reactionary impulsiveness occurs, shouting down the opposition, threats, forced compliance, physical violence, incarceration, or worse.

The only thing that can stop this evil progression from descending into lawless chaos is enforcing the law.

I. The Instigation of the Riot – vv23-27

v23

v25 - v26

v27

“And there is danger...”

A skillful demagogue, Demetrius weaved *economic fear, religious offense, and patriotic indignation* together into the 3-fold cord he used to whip the crowd into a frenzy.

II. The Intensification of the Riot – vv28-34

v28

“crying out”

Fear-based rage over loss.

Truth makes the mob angry (“Crucify him! Crucify him!”).

“For it is a land of images, and they are mad over idols.” Jeremiah 50:38

Religious piety and patriotic zeal are only on display when people have something to gain by it.

v29

v30 - v31

v32

v33 - v34

III. The Pacification of the Riot – vv35-41

v35

“town clerk”

“sacred stone”

v36

v37

v38 - v39

v40

v41

What to do in the face of a potential riot:

1. Speak the Truth
2. Proclaim the Gospel
3. Obey the Law
4. Trust the Lord