

## ACTS 19 - Ephesus

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Acts 19:23-20:3

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**The Bible teaches there are 3 ways of being a human when it comes to spirituality:**

**Religion – Irreligion - Gospel**

\*Discuss these three ways – what are the elements of each? What does a person trust in each system?

\*How or where do you generally see these to be the three ways of human spirituality?

**The true Gospel frees people from the oppression of the religious system**

Read and discuss Acts 19:23-34 (NIV)

*<sup>23</sup> About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. <sup>24</sup> A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. <sup>25</sup> He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. <sup>26</sup> And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. <sup>27</sup> There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”*

*<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” <sup>29</sup> Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. <sup>30</sup> Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. <sup>31</sup> Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.*

*<sup>32</sup> The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. <sup>33</sup> The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. <sup>34</sup> But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”*

\*What do we see about religious systems in this passage?

\*What tactics are Demetrius and others using in speaking to the people?

\*How does the Gospel threaten this system?

**The true Gospel frees people from the idolatry of self**

A non-religious person doesn’t want a system – they just trust in themselves.

\*What tactics does irreligion use to keep us from the Gospel?

\*How does the Gospel threaten the system of irreligion?

**Religion – Irreligion – Gospel: These 3 postures are in us all**

These conflicts in Acts lead us not only to understanding the world better, but to understanding the struggle inside ourselves.

\*How have you embraced religion as your hope? How have you decided to live for yourself?

\*How do you need to believe the Gospel and rest in your relationship with Jesus?

\*Is there something you are holding onto that is familiar, known, or feels safe but is really just making you miserable?

\*What do you sense He is asking you to release or move toward the Gospel posture in?