

Acts of the Holy Spirit - 22
Confronting Idols
Acts 19:23-41 Week of October 14, 2018
Bay Park Life Groups – Participant Guide

Ephesus was the principle city, the capital of Asia Minor. Though Ephesus was commercial center as well, it was pre-eminently a center of pagan religions and occult practices . . . The pride of the city was the Temple of Artemis (Diana) whose building was four times the size of the Parthenon and called one of the seven wonders of the world. The temple was such an attraction that it drew huge numbers of people from all over the world. As a result, the temple became an enormous economic boon to the city, generating a great deal of income from visitors, and serving as a banking institution in its own right.¹

Timothy Keller

1. Pick one of the following:

- What tourist filled destination have you travelled to and how did it impact you? Why are we drawn to certain destinations and attractions?
- Have you ever traveled, or wanted to, for religious purposes? If so where and why?

Read Acts 19:23-27

2. Why was the Gospel so offensive to some Ephesians? What can we learn from this for today?
3. The growth of Christianity obviously impacted Demetrius' wallet as fewer idols and shrines were being sold locally and globally (vv 25-26). Though Demetrius' concern was purely economic, not moral or religious, he still couched his greed by appealing to professional and civic pride - *our trade will lose its good name*" and *"the goddess... of Asia... will be robbed of her divine majesty"* (v 27). You could say Demetrius' real idol was his bottom line, which he hid under the mask of patriotism and under the banner of professionalism. What other idols do we wrestle with today? What masks do we hide them under?
4. What if instead of fighting God, Demetrius had surrender to God? What blessings might he have experienced? What might his life have looked like after?

Read Acts 19:28-41

¹ Timothy Keller, *Mission to Ephesus*, (Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 2005) p 174

5. Why did Paul's friends not want him to appear before the crowd? What lessons can we learn from this?
6. Why did Luke record these events? How might this impact us?
7. How has God been speaking to you through Acts 19:23-41? What changes do you see taking root in response to God's nudging?