

Palmetto Baptist Church: February 23, 2020

Walking in Wisdom: Acts 19:21-41

- **The Loyalty of Paul (21-22)**
- **The Lecture of Demetrius (23-27)¹**
- **The Lunacy of the Crowd (28-34)**
- **The Logic of the Mayor (35-41)**

WALKING IN WISDOM (connection to Ephesians 5:15-21)

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Acts 19:21–41 (OB): VII. The Defenders of Artemis (19:23–41): A riot breaks out in Ephesus.

I. The Loyalty of Paul (21-22)

A. To God (21)

1. His person: Resolved in the Holy Spirit
2. His plan: Jerusalem and ultimately Rome

B. To others (22)

1. Timothy
2. Erastus
3. Believers in Asia

II. The Lecture of Demetrius (23-27)

A. Demetrius the tradesman (19:23–24): He employs many craftsmen to make silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis.

B. Demetrius the troublemaker (19:25–27): He calls his associates together and lectures them concerning how Paul's preaching is harming to their business.

III. The Lunacy of the Crowd (28-34): Demetrius's fiery speech incites mob action against Paul and his associates.

¹ The last three points (II, III, and IV) are taken directly from *The Outline Bible* by Harold L. Willmington.

- A. **The Cry of the Mob (19:28–31):** They meet in the city amphitheater and for two hours cry out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”
- B. **The Confusion of the Mob (19:32–34):** Many simply rush there without even knowing why.

IV. The Logic of the Mayor (19:35–41): This intelligent Greek official calms down the mob through four logical arguments.

- A. **The divinity of the statue (19:35–36):** All the world knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the image of the goddess Artemis, which he says fell down to them from heaven.
- B. **The honesty of the opponents (19:37):** The apostles have neither said nor done any punishable thing.
- C. **The legality of the matter (19:38–39):** Demetrius should pursue any and all grievances through the court system.
- D. **The (possible) penalty of the uprising (19:40–41):** Unless the mob disperses, the Roman officials may well intervene.

- I. **The Loyalty of Paul (21-22)**
- II. **The Lecture of Demetrius (23-27)**
- III. **The Lunacy of the Crowd (28-34)**
- IV. **The Logic of the Mayor (35-41)**

Application:

- **It is wise to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. (21 – “resolved in the Spirit”)**

How does the Holy Spirit lead today?

Hebrews 1:1-2: Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

How God spoke in the past:

- At many times

- In many ways
 - Acts 2 (Tongues)
 - Acts 11:22-24 (Circumstances)
 - Acts 16:6-10 (Visions)
 - Acts 27:23 (Angels)
 - Nehemiah 2:12; 7:5; 2 Corinthians 8:16 (Promptings of the heart)
- Through the Prophets
 - Acts 4:25 (David)
 - I Corinthians 12:27-28 (NT Prophets)
 - Acts 13:1-4 (NT Prophets)

How God speaks today:

- Through Jesus Christ
 - Ephesians 5:18-21

¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit**, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- Colossians 3:16

¹⁶**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Experiencing God by Henry & Richard Balckaby & Claude King:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
- 4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.**
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experiences as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

- **It is wise to care for the souls of those around you.** (22 – Timothy, Erastus, and the believers in Ephesus; 29 - Gaius and Aristarchus)

ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CARING FOR THOSE AROUND YOU?

- **It is wise to understand the culture around you. (23-41)**
 - Paul understood the motives of Demetrius, the chaos of the crowd, and the power of God-ordained leaders (like the mayor).
 - Paul knew that the Gospel was the answer that they needed most. (30)
 - DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE CULTURE AROUND YOU?
- **It is wise to trust in the sovereignty of God. (Acts 19:29-31)**
 - **To protect loved ones (29)**
 - **To entrust him with the Gospel (30)**
 - **To ordain authority around him (31 – some of the Asiarchs)**
 - **To endure affliction (20:1)**

⁵I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, ⁶and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, **and there are many adversaries.** (Acts 19:9; 23-41)

WILL YOU TRUST IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD TO PROTECT AND GUIDE YOU?