



FearLESS People
Provoke Change

Acts 19:23–27 (NKJV)

23 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.

24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.

25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.

26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.

27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

Fearless People Provoke Change

- Through the preaching and teaching of Jesus Christ change took place in Ephesus, and that change affected many and some were not happy about the change.

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Diana - Artemis

Artemis Ephesia (Ἄρτεμις Ἐφεσία, Artemis Ephesia)

- To the Romans, Artemis was known as Diana. It was the goddess Artemis Ephesia, however, that was at the center of the controversy in Acts 19.
- This deity was a fusion of Greek Artemis and an Asian mother-goddess from Ephesus. Surviving statues of Artemis Ephesia show her to be a multi-breasted mother-goddess, clothed in ornate garments and wearing a large headdress (*sometimes in the shape of city walls*).
- Artemis was associated with fertility, having the “exaggerated sexual features” of other Near Eastern fertility goddesses.

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Fearless Worship Calls Us To One God!

Joshua 24:14–15 (NKJV)

14 “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

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Demetrius The Silversmith

- A silversmith of shrines to honor Artemis in Ephesus; he started a riot against Paul because the gospel threatened his livelihood (*Acts 19:24; Acts 19:38*).
- People started denying the false gods, and putting their faith in Jesus Christ, and it started affecting the local economy!

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- A relationship with Jesus will cause us not to support things that conflict with our relationship with Him!

Proverbs 14:27 (NKJV)

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

3374 יִרְאַה [yir'ah /yir·aw/] n f. 1c fear (of God), respect, reverence, piety. 1d revered.

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Loss Of Income Caused Anger

Acts 19:25–27 (NKJV)

25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.

26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.

27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

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Satan Attacks Paul Through The Crowd From Several Approaches And Desires

- It was at this point that Satan attacked as the deceiver.

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Satan Attacks Paul Through The Crowd From Several Approaches And Desires

2 Corinthians 11:3–4 (NKJV)

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

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Satan Attacks Paul Through The Crowd From Several Approaches And Desires

- Satan as the destroyer:

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

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Satan Attacks Paul Through The Crowd From Several Approaches And Desires

- Satan as a murderer:

John 8:44 (NKJV)

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

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Satan Attacks Paul Through The Crowd From Several Approaches And Desires

- Satan incited a team of silversmiths to stage a public protest against Paul and the Gospel.

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Satan Attacks Paul Through The Crowd From Several Approaches And Desires

- The enemy had been repeatedly defeated throughout Paul's three years of ministry in Ephesus.
- It would have been a master stroke on Satan's part to climax that ministry with a city-wide attack that could result in Paul's arrest, or even his death.

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- Wherever the Gospel of Jesus of Christ is preached, it will be opposed by people who make money from superstition and sinful acts.
- Paul did not arouse the opposition of the silversmiths by picketing the temple of Diana or staging anti-idolatry rallies.
- He did so by teaching the Truth daily and sent out his disciples to witness to the lost people in the city.

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Romans 4:5–8 (NKJV)

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

7 **“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;**

8 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

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- As more and more people were saved, fewer and fewer customers supported the silversmith were available.



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The Love Of Money Is The Issue

1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- Demetrius and his silversmiths were promoting idolatry and immorality in order to make a living.

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- Paul was declaring the true God and pointing people to cleansing and purity through the free grace of God.
- The silversmiths were really more concerned about their jobs and their income than they were about Diana and her temple, but they were wise enough not to make this known.
- **They were deceiving the people!**

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- **When money is your motive for life you will never be satisfied!**

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NKJV)

He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.

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Acts 19:28–31 (NKJV)

28 Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”

29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions.

30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.

31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater.

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- The confused crowd, some 25,000 shouting people, finally filled up the amphitheater; most of them did not know what was happening or why they were there.
- Since the mob could not find Paul, they seized two of his helpers, Gaius and Aristarchus.
- *Paul wanted to enter the theater—but the believers and some of the city leaders wisely counseled him to stay away (Acts 19:30–31).*

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Confusion Is Not Of God!

1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

James 3:16–18 (NKJV)

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Fear LESS People Provoke Change

- God wants all of us to live a life of peace through Jesus Christ.
- **He IS NOT the author of confusion.**
- Some people will misunderstand the change that takes place in our lives when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior.
- Confusion sometimes lies in the people who desire for us to continue in our past behaviors when the change has taken place in our lives.
- Because of change, we CANNOT continue to support the things that are in conflict with our faith in Jesus Christ.

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