

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“*Expansion of Faith*” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I’ve titled today’s message: **“Pushback In Ministry”**
  - (Acts 19:23-41) NLT

**~INTRO~**

OK... LAST WEEK...

- We learned that the sufficiency of the Gospel message...
  - Is greater than any human help.
    - Because God is the one who sets people free...
      - And brings healing into our lives.

WE LEARNED FROM...

- (Hosea 4:6a) NLT
  - “*My people are being destroyed because they don’t know Me.*”

AND... AS A RESULT OF NOT KNOWING GOD...

- The byproduct surfaces with foolish decisions.

(Proverbs 19:3) NLT

*“People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord.”*

**GOD WHY DID YOU LET THIS HAPPEN!?!**

BUT IN REALITY...

- God gives each person a free will to yield to Him...
  - OR plow ahead on their own.

AND... FINALLY... WE LEARNED...

- How to recognize the spirit of error.

WE LEARNED...

- That when the world tries to handle soul matters...
  - With self-reformation...
    - Things only get worse NOT better!

**NOW... TODAY...**

- Why does the Bible devote so much space to a riot in Ephesus?

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OUT OF ALL THE THINGS...

- Doctor Luke (the writer of Acts) could have elaborated on...
  - He chose to illuminate this situation.

BUT... WHY???

FOLLOW ALONG (vv.23-27) NKJV

HERE’S A FEW THINGS TO OBSERVE:

- When it comes to **“Pushback In Ministry”**

**IDEA #1 – ADVANCING THE GOSPEL:**

OK...

- Let’s grab the big picture as we begin.

(1 Tim 1:15-16) NLT

*“This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life.”*

IN...

- (Acts 20:31) we learn that Paul stayed in Ephesus...
  - For a total of 3-years before leaving due to this riot.

THE FIRST TWO-YEARS...

- He rented a school or lecture hall (Acts 19:9-10)
  - And he simply taught the scriptures to people.
- And the message spread throughout the region of Asia Minor.
  - People want a real experience and not a religious regimen.
    - God was doing great things here!

NOW... EPHESUS...

- Was the capital city of the Roman province of Asia...
  - And it had a population of about 300,000 people.

THIS CITY...

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- Housed one of the *seven wonders* of the ancient world...
  - Known as the Temple of Diana – here’s a life size model.

[Miniaturk](#) Park – Istanbul, Turkey (March 2007).



THIS TEMPLE HOUSED DIANA...

- The female goddess of fertility...
  - That people worshiped with little trinkets.



Statue of 'Beautiful Artemis'

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Turkish Archaeological News – Museum in Selcuk (sell-tok) (Jan. 2020)

NOW... DEPENDING ON YOUR BIBLE TRANSLATION...

- (Acts 19:24) some Bibles use **Diana** & other use **Artemis**.
  - Diana = Latin name & Artemis = Greek name
    - It's the same attraction people are placing their hope in.

AND...

- It was in this city (Ephesus) of *spiritual darkness*...
  - That the Gospel was having a massive impact!

(v.19) people burned their magic books...

- And now (v.26) their little handmade idols of Diana...
  - Were being ditched by people...
    - And it was causing an impact upon the economy.

**HERE'S THE POINT... DON'T MISS IT...**

- When the Gospel is being advanced by the people of God...
  - Light shines into very dark places...
    - And breaks people free!

**YOU'RE THE DISTRIBUTORS OF GOD'S LOVE!**

- Which is why it's so important to learn the full counsel of God.

COMMENTATOR Warren Wiersbe...

*“The church ministers by persuasion, not propaganda. We share God's truth, not man's religious lies. Our motive is love, not anger; and the glory of God, not the praise of men. This is why the church goes on...”*

~ Warren Wiersbe, (2007) N.T. Commentary (p.386) ~

**IDEA #2 – MY RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE:** (vv28-34)

MANY PEOPLE ACCEPTED...

- The Gospel message Paul shared in Ephesus...
  - And their lives were a testimony...
    - To the power of God (magic books & idols abandoned).

YET...

- There were far more who rejected Paul's message!

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DIFFICULTY IN MINISTRY...

- Is not a onetime event...
  - It's an ongoing daily occurrence.
- Because you're always working with people who are rejecting God...
  - Because of sin / doubt / unbelief / ignorance / etc.
    - These are the blinding tools of Satan...
      - Against all humanity.

AND... THERE'S A REAL DANGER...

- To knowing what is right and doing nothing with it.
  - (Isa. 30:8-11) NLT
  - 1) Stubbornness (v.9a)
  - 2) Refusal to pay attention (v.9b)
  - 3) Rejection of good teaching (v.10)
  - 4) Leaving the narrow path of truth (v.11)

HERE'S THE REMEDY...

- To avoid moral drifting (Prov. 7:1-3) NLT

HERE'S THE RESTART IF YOU FALL...

- (Ps. 65:3) NLT

**IDEA #3 – NEGLECTING THE CURE:** (vv.35-41)

IN THIS SCENE...

- The riot in Ephesus marked the end of onsite ministry for Paul.
  - (Acts 20:1) tells us he said good-bye and left for Macedonia...
    - (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea)

(Rom. 1:20-25) NLT

- May we not defy God's established order.

(1 Tim 1:19) NLT

- May you keep your conscience clear.

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT FAITH IN JESUS...

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- Would you raise your hand so I can pray for you.