

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

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays 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 simple 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.

[Miniatürk](#) 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.