



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

Riots and Revivals

Scripture: Acts 19:23-41

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

For My Family:

As we saw last time, God was doing amazing things through Paul during his time in Ephesus. People were getting saved, miracles were being done, and many of the Ephesians had burned their books of magic so they could follow the Lord. What an exciting time that must have been! However, not everyone in Ephesus was happy about what was going on.

In Acts 19:24, we are introduced to a man named Demetrius. Now Demetrius was a silversmith, and he made his money selling idols of the false goddess Diana (some Bibles might say “Artemis”). But because so many people were becoming Christians, no one was buying his idols anymore. Paul was bad for business! So he gathered the other idol-makers of the town and convinced them that they needed to deal with this problem. If Paul kept preaching the Gospel, pretty soon nobody would be worshipping Diana and all of them would be out of a job, so they formed an angry mob.

This mob grew quickly, to the point where verse 29 tells us that the whole city was filled with confusion. Two of Paul’s friends even got caught up and taken by the mob. Paul, who was always ready to preach the Gospel in any situation, wanted to go to the crowd and talk to them, but his friends wisely pointed out that this might not be such a good idea and begged him not to go, and he listened.

The mob began to spiral out of control. For two hours, many of them were chanting, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians,” while some didn’t even know why everyone was gathered. Finally, the town clerk (a city official) spoke to the mob and told them that they had to stop. If they didn’t, the Romans might hear about it and send an army to break up the mob and take away their freedom. The mob listened to this advice, and the people returned home.

As we’ve seen throughout this series, sometimes when Paul came to a city, many people got saved and there was a great revival. Other times, riots broke up and Paul had to flee for his life. In fact, there were plenty of times, like in Ephesus, that both happened. But Paul didn’t let the riots scare him or discourage him from sharing the Gospel. He preached about Jesus and trusted God to take care of the rest. The same way, when we tell others about the Lord, we will face all different kinds of reactions. Some may believe, others might not. We could be made fun of or rejected. But whether or not people listen when we share the Gospel, we can’t give up or be discouraged. We need to share the love of Christ wherever we go and trust God to take care of the rest.

Questions for Young Children:

Why was Demetrius angry at Paul? What did he do in response?

Did the angry mob discourage Paul from wanting to preach the Gospel?

What happened to the mob in the end?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Do you think Demetrius and the idol-makers actually cared about Diana?

What do you think they were really upset about?

Why don't you think Paul gave up on preaching even when people rejected his message? (Hint: think about how Paul got saved and what he was like before he was a Christian.)

Have you ever faced pushback or consequences for sharing your faith? How did you respond?