



The Riot In Ephesus

Acts 19:23-41

“This man Paul has persuaded many people that **handmade gods aren’t really gods at all.**”

Acts 19:26

“At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, ‘Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!’ ... Everyone rushed to the amphitheater,”

Acts 19:28-29

“**Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul,** also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater.”

Acts 19:31

“You have brought these men here, but **they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess.**”

Acts 19:37

Does Idolatry Exist Today?

“Idolatry is taking good things and making them _____ things.” - Tim Keller

Three Observations About Idolatry

1. Idols are _____

“...the city was **full of idols.**” Acts 17:16

2. Idols are _____

“We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these **worthless things** to the living God,”

Acts 14:15

3. Idols are _____

“God is **not served** by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, **he himself gives** everyone life and breath and everything else.”

Acts 17:25

When Faith Affects Finance

Application Question:

Ask yourself: What Am I _____ ?

The first Christians were:

1. _____ Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8
2. Pro-_____ not anti-_____
3. Known for who they _____ not what they _____

Memory Verse

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15

Acknowledgements: Sources used in the preparation of this message include *The Gospel And Idolatry* by Tim Keller, *The Riot at Ephesus* by John MacArthur, *American Idols* by Rene Schlaepfer, *Why People Oppose The Gospel* by Steven Cole, *How A Church Upsets A City* by Chris Brown, *Rejecting Revival* by David Guzik

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Invite Jesus to by my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- Memorize 1 Peter 3:15
- Ask God to show me what I’m known for
- Get the most out of today’s message by attending my Life Group



Discussion Questions - Week #4

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend, "When Faith Affects Finance," summarize the main point in a sentence or two.

Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

● In the message this weekend, we learned three things the first Christians were known for. What is one thing you would like to be known for?

● Pastor Rick quoted Tim Keller in the message saying, "Idolatry is taking good things and making them ultimate things." Where do you see that happening in our world?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word idol?

Read Psalm 115:1-11, Jonah 2:8-9 & Habakkuk 2:18. If idols are as dumb and lifeless as these passages make them out to be, why are we so prone to worship them?

What are the most tempting idols in our day, and how are they worshipped?

What is the danger of idolatry?

How might the psalmist's encouragement in Psalm 115:9-11 counter our temptation to idolatry?

What idols stand out in your life from which you need to rid yourself?

2. Several times throughout the first half of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he reminds them of who they are in Christ. Read Ephesians 2:1-13. What stands out to you?

How does our new identity in Christ contrast with our old identity?

What is the source of this new identity?

How do you think living in this new identity should affect our thoughts and actions?

It's easy to forget about our new identity and the freedom and security it provides. What are some ways that could help us remember who we are as followers of Christ?

FOR PRACTICE

☞ The most insistent and insidious idols in our lives don't always sit on the surface, easy to observe. It's why the prayer from Psalm 139:23-24 is so essential in our spiritual lives. Take time this week to reflect and pray on this verse: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." You might also consider the practice of journaling to reflect more intentionally on what God reveals to you.

SHARE IT

☞ Is there anything you heard or learned in the weekend message or Life Group this week that you want to share with someone you know?

PRAYER REQUESTS

☞ Please continue to pray for the earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey. As the death toll continues to climb, exceeding 41,000, pray that the response of the global church in love and compassion would equal the pain of this incredible tragedy. Pray God's peace and presence will be experienced in powerful ways.