

Episode 7: October 18/19

The Witness to the Ephesians

Acts 19:1-21:16

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

***19****And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus.*

(Acts 19:1)

Paul in Ephesus and the “Cosmic Battle”

1. The Disciples of John (19:1–7): Paul meets twelve former disciples of John the Baptist.
   1. They have never heard of the Holy Spirit (19:2b).
   2. Paul brings them up to date concerning Jesus’ ministry (19:3–4).
   3. When they are baptized in the name of Jesus, they receive the Holy Spirit (19:5–7).
2. The Declaration of the Gospel (19:8–10)
   1. Paul preaches the Good News boldly each Sabbath in the synagogue (19:8).
   2. Due to open hostility, he moves to the public hall of Tyrannus and preaches daily for the final two years (19:9–10).

1. Spiritual Warfare in Ephesus
   1. The Miracle of the Prayer Cloths (19:11–12): God so anoints Paul that even a handkerchief of cloth that has touched Paul’s skin brings about healing when placed on the sick (reminiscent of Peter’s Shadow).
   2. The Son of Sceva (19:13–17).
      1. Seven brothers attempt to cast out a demon, using the name of Jesus as a magical incantation (19:13–14).
      2. The demon comes out but then jumps on them, beating them severely (19:15–17).
   3. New Converts (19:18–20).
      1. These new believers have been brought out of the occult through Paul’s preaching (19:18).
      2. They burn their books on black magic (19:19–20).
      3. The apostle vows to visit Rome in the near future (19:21–22).
2. The Riot in Ephesus (19:23–41): A riot breaks out in Ephesus.
   1. Trouble with Demetrius (19:23–27).
      1. *Demetrius* employs many craftsmen to make silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis (19:23–24).
      2. *He* calls his associates together and lectures them concerning how Paul’s preaching is harming their business (19:25–27).
      3. Demetrius’s fiery speech incites mob action against Paul and his associates (19:28–34).
      4. They meet in the city amphitheater and for two hours cry out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” (19:28–31).
      5. Many simply rush there without even knowing why (19:32–34).
   2. The Clerk’s Intervention (19:35–41): This reasonable Greek official calms down the mob through four logical arguments.
      1. All the world knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the image of the goddess Artemis, which he says fell down to them from heaven (19:35–36).
      2. The apostles have neither said nor done any punishable thing (19:37).
      3. Demetrius should pursue any and all grievances through the court system (19:38–39).
      4. Unless the mob disperses, the Roman officials may well intervene (19:40–41).

Paul Returns to Greece (20:1–3): The Jews plot against his life (20:3b).

PAUL RETURNS TO ASIA

1. Paul in Troas (20:7–12).
   1. He is accompanied by seven associates, including Timothy (20:4–6).
   2. Paul preaches until midnight (20:7).
   3. A young man in attendance named Eutychus accidentally falls to his death from an upper window (20:8–9).
   4. Paul raises him from the dead (20:10–12).

1. Paul in Miletus (20:17–38): The apostle shares his heart with a group of select men.
   1. The apostle is hurrying to Jerusalem for the celebration of Pentecost (20:13–16).
   2. Paul sends for the Ephesian elders to join him at Miletus (20:17).
   3. Paul summarizes the gospel ministry in a threefold manner (20:18–35).
      1. *He reviews the past* (20:18–21, 26–27, 31, 33–35).
         1. For three years he fearlessly, faithfully, and tearfully preached Christ among them (20:18–21, 31).
         2. Paul has always been faithful in declaring God’s Word, so no one’s damnation can be blamed on him (20:26–27).
         3. Paul reminds them of his unselfish ministry (20:33–35).
         4. Paul fully supports himself, taking money from no one (20:33–35a).
         5. He remembers—and challenges them to remember—Jesus’ words: “It is more blessed to give than to receive!” (20:35b).
      2. *He overviews the present* (20:22–25, 28, 32).
         1. Paul explains that this will be their final meeting, for he will face difficult times ahead (20:22–25).
         2. “Feed and shepherd God’s flock” (20:28).
         3. “I entrust to you God and the word of his grace” (20:32).
      3. *He previews the future* (20:29–30): Paul warns them to watch out for false teachers in the church.
         1. They will be like vicious wolves, not sparing the flock (20:29).
         2. They will come from the leadership of the church itself (20:30).
         3. Paul’s Prayer (20:36–38): When Paul finishes speaking, he kneels and prays for them. After a tearful farewell, he departs for Jerusalem.
2. Paul in Tyre (21:4–6): The Holy Spirit warns Paul through these believers that trouble awaits him in Jerusalem (21:4b–6).
3. Paul in Caesarea (21:8–15).
   1. Paul visits with Philip the evangelist, one of the seven deacons (21:8).
   2. Philip has four unmarried daughters who have the gift of prophecy (21:9).
   3. God speaks though Agabus, warning Paul of his arrest and imprisonment in Jerusalem (21:10–11).
   4. Paul’s traveling companions and the believers at Caesarea beg him not to go to Jerusalem (21:12).
   5. Realizing Paul is determined to visit Jerusalem, the believers declare: “The will of the Lord be done!” (21:13–15).
4. Epilogue: Ephesians-- The Sovereignty of God and the Supremacy of Christ.