

This Is the Way in the Chaos

Acts 19:23-41

1. COUNT on CHAOS.

23 About that time there was a **major disturbance** about **the Way**.

24 For a person named **Demetrius**, a silversmith who made **silver shrines of Artemis**, provided a **great deal of business** for the craftsmen.

25 When he had assembled them, as well as the workers engaged in this type of business, he said, "Men, you know that **our prosperity** is derived from **this business**.

26 You see and hear that not only in **Ephesus**, but in almost **all of Asia**, this man **Paul** has **persuaded** and **misled** a considerable number of people by saying that **gods made by hand are not gods**.

27 Not only do we run a risk that **our business may be discredited**, but also that the temple of the **great goddess Artemis may be despised** and **her magnificence** come to the verge of **ruin**—the very one all of Asia and the world worship."

28 When they had heard this, they were **filled with rage** and began to cry out, "**Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!**"

29 So the city was **filled with confusion**, and they **rushed** all together into the **amphitheater, dragging along** Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were **Paul's traveling companions**.

2. Get PERSPECTIVE in the CHAOS.

30 Although **Paul wanted to go** in before the people, **the disciples did not let him**. 31 Even some of the provincial officials of Asia, who were **his friends, sent word to him, pleading** with him not to venture into the amphitheater.

3. Don't be OVERWHELMED by the CHAOS.

32 Some were **shouting** one thing and some another, because **the assembly was in confusion**, and **most** of them **did not know why** they had come together.

33 Some **Jews** in the crowd gave instructions to **Alexander** after they pushed him to the front. Motioning with his hand, **Alexander wanted to make his defense** to the people. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, they all **shouted** in unison for about two hours, "**Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!**"

4. TRUST GOD in the CHAOS.

35 When the **city clerk** had **calmed the crowd down**, he said, "People of Ephesus! What person is there who doesn't know that **the city** of the Ephesians **is the temple guardian of the great Artemis**, and of the **image that fell from heaven**?"

36 Therefore, since these things are undeniable, you must **keep calm** and **not do anything rash**.

37 For you have brought these men here who are **not temple robbers or blasphemers of our goddess**.

38 So if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him **have a case against anyone**, the **courts** are in session, and there are proconsuls. Let them **bring charges** against one another.

39 But if you **seek anything further**, it must be decided in a **legal** assembly. 40 In fact, we **run a risk** of being charged with **rioting** for what happened today, since there is **no justification** that we can give as a reason for this **disturbance**."

41 After saying this, he **dismissed the assembly**.