

Uproar in Ephesus

1. Whom Does the Gospel Disturb?

2. Why Is the Gospel So Disturbing?

3. Have You Been Disturbed/Disturbing?

CONCLUSION: As the gospel of Jesus Christ takes root in Ephesus it brings about such transformation that the idolatry for which the city was famous is disturbed and a riot breaks out. The growth of Christ's Kingdom on earth threatens other competing kingdoms. Following Jesus presents us with a radical new security, identity, and purpose. These new Kingdom realities will not peacefully co-exist with loyalty to the world. We must be willing to surrender all to Jesus and not be surprised when others violently refuse to do so.

Ephesians 5: 1 – 17

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.² And *walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us*, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them;⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Psalms 115: 4 – 8

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.
They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.
They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.
They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.
Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

First Kings 18: 21 (20 – 40)

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

The gospel disturbs all of our loyalties competing with Christ. The Ephesians demonstrated that through their uproar and rioting. How have we experienced that? How have we become too comfortable?

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 19:21-41; Ephesians 5:1-17; Psalm 115:4-8; First Kings 18:20-40**. DISCUSS, How has the gospel disturbed my security, identity, and/or purpose? Or do I simply have a comfortable arrangement with Jesus? Does following Jesus cost me everything? What am I hesitant to commit to Him? PRAY “Lord Jesus, You alone are King. You alone have authority over all things. Make us joyfully submit to You in everything.”

Sunday Evening

In lieu of *Young Adult Bible Study* this evening we will gather for fireworks at Woodstock High School at 6pm at the Flag Pole by the Union Arena.

Monday

READ **Acts 19:21-41; Ephesians 5:1-17**. DISCUSS, How are you walking as a child of light? What evidence is there in your life of radical loyalty to Christ? In what ways is your life a testimony to Christ’s disruptive presence? How are you responding to King Jesus’ power being displayed in the gospel? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20**. PRAY “Lord, teach me to trust You and to submit to Your authority as King.”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 19:11-20; Psalm 115:4-8, First Kings 18:21**. DISCUSS: Scripture warns us that we become like what we worship. This is one of the great dangers of idolatry. How do you resemble your idols? How are you working at putting away your idols and serving Christ alone? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20**. PRAY “Lord, forgive us for ways we continue to participate in idolatry. Enlighten us to see clearly the difference between good and evil. Enliven our hearts to only desire what is good.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 19:21-41; Ephesians 5:1-17; Psalm 115:4-8; 86:11.** DISCUSS, How is covetousness related to idolatry? How does idolatry color all of our sins? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY “King Jesus, give us undivided hearts with which to love You alone.”

Thursday

READ **Acts 19:21-41; First Kings 18:20-40.** DISCUSS, Do you see any similarities between the crowd in Acts and the priests of Baal? Why do we get so passionate about our idols? How are you looking for identity, purpose, or meaning from idols? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY “Jesus, reveal our idols and grant us the grace to turn from them to You alone.”

Friday

READ **Acts 19:21-41; Ephesians 5:1-17; Psalm 115:4-8; First Kings 18:20-40.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY “Lord King, we worship Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us.”

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 20:1-38.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service.* Ask Jesus to help us to completely submit to His authority.

Galatians 2: 20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.