

So we are continuing our tour with Paul so to speak as he is going around the Mediterranean Sea and Great Sea. We have been to Thessalonica. We have been to Corinth and now we are at Ephesus. And each place he has been has been a little different. Remember when we went to Thessalonica he instantly got into a fight. He was there for three weeks, chaos broke out, and he ran away. Well he didn't run away, he was escorted out. Corinth, he was there a little longer. He was there for about 2 years and now he is in Ephesus and he has been there for about 2 years again, so he has a little bit more time. And he is learning as he is going, what to say, what not to say, and how to talk to everybody. And that is not an easy task. But he's got it. He is getting this figured out.

Now Ephesus is like Corinth. It is a city that was destroyed completely. It was on a coast in Turkey, Asia Minor. It was the main port. And every time someone would come to conquer, it would get destroyed, and they would wipe that out. And it was rebuilt over and over again. This time it was rebuilt and given to the Romans. The king that had it at the time realized when he died, that they were going to come and way lay it and everything. So to help, he just gave it to them. He was like we are going to stop all the blood shed; we are going to do this. So Ephesus ended up growing and becoming this major city, this major port in this area. And what they were known the most for was they had a temple dedicated to Artemis and it was one of the 7 ancient wonders of the world. So people were coming all the time to see this temple, whether they were Hellenistic or not, whether they believed in the Greek and Roman gods or not. They would come and see this temple. They had a statue that was erected from something that fell from heaven So it was a meteorite that fell. They fixed it. It looks pretty; they put it out there. Now while Paul is going around, he is talking to everybody. He is going through all of Turkey at this point. And he is telling everyone about Jesus.

In one story, no one had ever been to Ephesus. No one had ever come to speak about Jesus and his teachings. In another story, Jesus came and he used it as his entry way to go to Japan. That's a really weird story but it is a part of the history. And the third is that John the Baptist came there and when John the Baptist was there, he baptized a whole bunch of people into the Jewish faith. But they never knew that Jesus had come. So they knew they were living by these Jewish teachings, by these traditions, and they knew that a Messiah was coming, but they didn't know who. They didn't know that he had come, and they didn't know that he had ascended.

So Paul is telling all of these people this and it is going out through all of Asia Minor. And it's this huge thing. Everybody's jumping on board. The gentiles are converting. The women are becoming more active in the church. It's fantastic. And then there is Demetrius. And he is upset, not because of all of these conversions. Not because of this. But the people aren't buying his statues any more. That is what this whole thing is about. He is upset because somebody isn't buying his little statues any more.

It reminded me of one of the restaurants I opened up, down in Kansas City. We were down in the Plaza. So we are right there down in the main part of Kansas City. You know everything happens down on the Plaza. All the tourism, all the money is just right there. It's fancy. And this restaurant a couple doors down from me, the manager comes over and he is mad because there is a shop in between the two of us that has been empty for years at this point and someone is going to come in and open it up, a restaurant he had heard. And he is mad. You know, they tell you when a new restaurant comes into town that it is going to bring

more business. It doesn't. It's a lie. It takes your business away, so he is mad. And he gets all of the businesses in the area, or tries to, to talk to the landlord and tell him to not give them this spot. Well that doesn't work. The landlord doesn't care. He's getting his money. He's already signed his contract. It's done.

So then he hits up all of the houses in the neighborhood. And this part of town has a lot of money, so they are upset because it must be a corporate chain. And they are going to push everybody out. Well that only works for a little bit then he goes to the health department, He goes to the city, he goes to the state, He goes to everyone he can find and people are just angry. Everybody is upset about this and nobody knows why. He told all the people in the neighborhood that it's a bar. And they don't want a bar in town, because they have all these kids. So they are upset because it is a bar. Somebody else is upset because they found out that it was a place of ill repute is how they put it. I don't know what it was, but they were convinced that Satan was coming. It was sinful. They didn't want it. That guy didn't care as long as everybody was angry And more and more people got angry. And more and more people got angry.

What it was was a chocolate shop. It had nothing to do with the rest of us. You know it might have hurt our dessert sales a little bit. But it helped out everything else. We sold more sangria because people would be standing in line and get bored. But the point is this one person was so angry because he thought he was going to lose money like Demetrius did.

If you look on Facebook this happens all the time. Somebody isn't fully informed, starts causing trouble. Madrid Media Network page is big on that. There is someone always firing off that something happened/. We all do that, don't we? Sometimes we are the person firing off, upset because we don't get the full story. Sometimes we are the people who jump in on this group and we are upset and angry because everyone is upset and angry. And we don't know why but we keep doing these things. Paul was part of this. He heard all of these arguments going on . He heard all of these angry. And he is used to this. Everywhere he goes someone is mad at him, but he didn't fully understand why. So he wanted to listen. He wanted to go and join and be a part of this and his disciples were telling him no, that is a bad idea. And it is a bad idea. When you get a mob like that, who are just angry, you don't know why they are angry. And even if they tell you why they are angry, they don't really know. It's about something they're just lashing out and Paul wanted to fix this. He wanted to go and tell them they could still get their statues. They could still have tourism. What I am telling you is that Jesus died so that you can have salvation. And the mayor realized that Paul was telling them not to worship these little idols any more. He was telling them that they didn't need to be worshiping fake gods. But we do have a world that we live in that we can be with people who have different views. They have different beliefs.

If I'm standing up here, I am standing up here, and I am telling you that the Kansas City Chiefs are the best team and you tell me that it is the Denver Broncos, we will disagree forever, and it doesn't matter. We know in the end that we will come together. We know that Jesus died for our sins. We know that he lived the righteous lifestyle, and that is the important thing, to teach and share his love. Selling trinkets isn't the big deal. Being angry just to be angry isn't right. But sharing God's love and his teachings is the important part of this. To set all of our differences aside and to come together just to share love and sometimes we forget that, especially today.