

2010 ACTS #20 CHAPTER19-20 PUBLIC RIOT PERSONAL RESPONSE

Acts 19:8-20

Everything in life should be an opportunity for us to learn.
 Paul traveled to Ephesus
 A wiser man for his beating and jail experience in Philippian jail.
 As Christian we too need to be constantly learning.
 We need to be aware of our surrounding,
 Aware of our environment.
 It is that part of us that Jesus said should become like little children.
 little children are always learning.

6 year old Casey asked her Sunday school teacher: "If the people of Israel are Israelites, and the people of Canann are Canannites, why aren't the people of Paris called Parasites?
 At school a 2nd grade teacher asked her children "where it is the hottest place on the globe?"The second grader said: The climate is hottest next to the Creator.
 There was a child with insight.

If we are to be as wise as serpents and as pleasant as doves.
 Then we must open our eyes to what is around us.

Author Mark Batterson said,
 "At the base of our brain stem there is a cluster of nerve cells called the **reticular activating system (RAS).**"
 We are constantly bombarded by countless stimuli
 sights and sounds and smells.
 If we had to process all this stimuli it would drive us crazy.
 The RAS determines what gets noticed and what goes unnoticed.
 Think of it as your mental radar system.

When you buy a car, a red camero.
 Your RAS system now notices red comero's wherever you go.
 You buy a new blouse and now you notice everyone seem to have the same blouse.
 Your new cell phone you thought was unique seem to be in everyone else's hands.
 And they seem to have downloaded the same ring tone.
 Once you bought the car, the blouse, or the cell phone,
 Your RAS made a new cognitive category of awareness.

Let me share with you the importance of prayer.
 When we pause in the morning to have a prayer time,
 We are activating our reticular system to the things of God.
 We see opportunity.
 We see what is danger,
 We see what is a true need.

People who live in a prayer mode are watchmen,
 They see farther than others see,
 They see things before others see them
 They see things other don't see.
 In Aramaic word for prayer (slotha) Means to set a trap

Prayer helps us catch the opportunities God throws our way.

Paul was prayed up and

⁸Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God Acts 19:8

He saw an opportunity others had missed.

That doesn't mean all were happy about it.

The Bible says:

But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. Acts 19:9

So led by the Spirit he moved his discussion from the church

To the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰This went on for two years. Acts 19:9-10a

Tyrannus was a professor at a school

And he rented out a room in the school for others to use.

The move was from God to use the excitement of the debate as a tool to spread the Gospel in the secular world.

All the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. Acts 19:10b

Now the Spirit of God was so present in this ministry,

That even a handkerchief or apron touched by Paul

Could be used by others to cure illness or exorcise evil spirits.

In our own church that is where our ministry of

Prayer shawls and blankets came to be about

They don't promise miracle healing, but as a form of comfort and care for those ill.

They are made by caring hands,

Then prayed over

And given in love.

It was an exciting time when belief in Jesus was sweeping Ephesus.

Challenging presuppositions

Whenever miracles start occurring ,

The secular world and spiritual leaders want to get in on it.

There were some non Christian Jews

¹⁴Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. Acts 19:14

who had a ministry of exorcism

Who decided they would use this new formula.

They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." Acts 19:13

Right here I want to warn you, who are not Christians,

And do not believe in Jesus,

Don't use Jesus' name in vain.

Don't use his name for influence, or power, or in the spirit world.

¹⁵One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Acts 19:15

The evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all.

¹⁶Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Acts 19:16

That event had a great effect upon the people.

What would happen today if the demonic spirits

Would come out and touch ever person

Who uses the name of Jesus unkindly or unwarranted?

Great fear would come upon us and

Greater respect would be given for Jesus name.

That's exactly what happened.

When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Acts 19:17

Now I know in our culture we use the name of Jesus

in any sacrilegious or desecrating way,

But we don't you dare mention Mohammad.

Cartoon Author Molly Norris, created a protest day to draw the prophet Mohammad
100,000 people step up to draw and helped in this protests.

But it brought death threats from the Muslem world to its author Molly Norris.

But friends, never forget that Jesus is the only true Son of God.

And there is no greater name under heaven by which we can be saved.

Oh that we could once again lift up the name of Jesus

In Washington, and in Aberdeen,

Let them draw pictures as well as attention,

In our home and in our coffee groups.

Instead of hearing Jesus name roll off

secular tongues in vulgarity, swearing, and cursing.

Any person that takes the name of Jesus in vain,

Has their RAS system in tune with the world

And they are spiritually blind, yea even dead.

But word got around.

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. Acts 19:18

Those who were dabbling in the occult and demonic activity,

Came together and had a public burning.

¹⁹A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. Actgs 19:19

We don't see public burning of books too often,

But the Pentagon just burned almost 10K copies ,

Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer's memoir, Operation Dark Heart.

To destroy any classified information.

The Ephesians were destroying demonic information, witchcraft, and sorcery books, with mediums and spells which is far more dangerous then classified information, because it can destroy both the body and soul in hell.

When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. ²⁰In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. Acts 19:19-20

50,000 drachmas was one man's wages for 137 years, or 10 men's wage for 14 years.
This was more than just a paper fire,
This was a spiritual fire
That turned people to Jesus.
And the word of the Lord spread widely.

Then at the pinnacle of success,
Trouble again arrived.

²³About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. Acts 19:23

Any time you disrupt the status quo,
It is going to create confusion and even outrage.
Once again --especially when it comes to money.

²⁴A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen.

Their business was making shrines of the goddess Artemis and her temple,
And selling the trinkets to local Ephesians and tourists.
Like any good secular think group,
They decide to sue.

Well they get organized

²⁵He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. Acats 19:25

Demetrius is like each of us,
When threatened with change
We all want to defend our jobs, money or way of life.
Even if it's a life of welfare.

²⁷There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name Acts 19:27

Then Demetrius adds a religious twist to it.

He states Paul said: that man-made gods are no gods at all.

but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty." Acts 19:27

The silversmith guild gathered a crowd of critics and incited a riot.

They marched and shouted for 2 hours.

"Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Acts 19:28

Everybody likes a party and a parade.

Doesn't matter what it's for people will come out to see it.

So soon

²⁹Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater. Acts 19:29

There is a time to stand up,
There is a time to stand down.
Paul wanted to appear,

But the Disciples and some officials of the province,
Held Paul back.

³⁰Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. ³¹Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater. Acts 19:30-31

When we as Christians are criticized by others,
We have a choice.
I have been there, maybe you have been there, too.
Sometimes I have been rightly accused.
Sometimes I have been falsely accused.
I have faced some very emotionally charged accusations.
Sometimes it's a flat out lie.
I've had to wrestle with a difficult choice,
Should I defend myself or keep quiet.

Sometime we have to stand up for what right.
Sometimes we have to let it pass.

Some of you remember when we were building the Community Life Center,
The question came up of whether we were to put paper towels
Or hot-air hand dryers in the bath rooms.
I wanted the hand towels dispenser.
I didn't want the hot air hand dryers.
Because I knew that someone would be scribbling a sign that read.
"For a sample of last week's sermon, push the button."

It was a

³⁵The city clerk quieted the crowd: Acts 19:35

You may feel insignificant in your present position
As a secretary, a clerk, a grocery bagger, check out person,
custodian, nurse's aid, or waitress.

But God can use you
Right where you are to make a difference.

⁴¹After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly. Acts 19:41

The riot ended in a whimper
The crowd melted away
And everyone went home to bed.

The question we must ask in living our Christian life,
**Is our message mostly against what's wrong in the culture
Or sharing what's right about the good news of Jesus.**

When people are angry, agitated or dead set against us or our Jesus,
We can still influence our culture by living godly lives.
We can be gentle in our response,
Speaking the truth of Jesus in love rather than in anger.
We can treat our critics with respect.
The Godly traits of honesty, integrity, and transparency are persuasive.

So today step up and be an accountable Christians.

1. Step up - know Jesus intimately, so our behavior, words, and attitude will be transformed.
2. Pray up--constantly let our RAS system be in tune with the living God.
3. Stand up --for the disadvantaged, and weakest of society
4. Speak up -- at God given opportunities for the truth of our faith
5. Love up -- love rather than judge those around us
6. Give up—Lets give to sacrifice to help others.

This is the commitment that God is calling for today!