

When the World Turned Upside Down  
Week 22: Acts 17 : 23-41 “The Religion of the Empire ”

上下顛覆的世界  
第二十二週 使徒行傳 17 : 23-41 “帝国宗教”

Acts 19:23-41 The Riot in Ephesus

23 About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. 24 A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there. 25 He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business. 26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all. 27 There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, 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.”

28 When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. 30 Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. 31 Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

32 The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. 33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people. 34 But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

35 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? 36 Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash. 37 You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess. 38 If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges. 39 If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly. 40 As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.” 41 After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

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輕看，連亞細亞全地和普天下所敬拜的女神的威望也受損害了。」

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The God of history understands every story.

History repeats itself almost like clockwork and we can be certain the eternal current of God's purpose is running right through the middle of what we're going through right now - and that He has placed US here for this important moment.

神了解歷史中的每個故事。历史就像時钟表一样重复发生，我们可以确定，上帝永恒的旨意正贯穿于我们现在正在经历的一切之中，并且他将我們擺在这一重要时刻。

BACKSTORY: Our passage starts with a really intriguing sentence...

About that time there arose a great disturbance about The Way.... 那時，因這道路而起的騷動不小

“About that time.” About what time?” 那時 “，大約什麼時候？

Acts 19 8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. 10 This went on for two years.....

8保羅進會堂，一連三個月放膽講道，辯論神國的事，勸導眾人。9後來，有些人心裏剛硬不信，在眾人面前毀謗這道；保羅就離開他們，也叫門徒與他們分開，就在推喇奴的講堂天天辯論。10這樣有兩年之久，

Paul had been in the city of Ephesus preaching - the Bible says, “openly and fearlessly” in the synagogue. This goes on for three months and many Jews convert to the way of Jesus, but others are angry - in fact, they're angry enough that Paul takes the disciples he's made and begins teaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. Scholars are unclear on who Tyrannus was exactly, but speculate that he was either a Greek philosopher or a Jewish rabbi with a private school and Paul rents that space from him and teaches every day for two years. This means Paul is no longer teaching as a Jewish leader - he's all on his own, working from a private venue, so he's like one of the popular philosophers of the day except he's communicating a life-changing message. The message is SO compelling, in fact, that the Bible says so that

“all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.”

保罗曾在以弗所城里传福音-圣经在会堂里说“公开而无所畏惧”。这种情况持续了三个月，许多犹太人成为耶稣，但其他人却很生气-实际上，他们很生气，以至于保罗带走了他造就门徒，并开始推喇奴的讲堂教导。学者不清楚推喇奴的确切身份，但推测他是希腊哲学家或是犹太拉比並擁有私立学校，而保罗则从他那里租用这个课堂，并每天教学教了两年。这意味着保罗不再是以犹太领袖的身份教学-他全靠自己，在一个私人场所工作，所以他就像当今流行的哲学家之一，他传达的是改变人生的信息外，这种信息是如此令人信服，事实上，圣经说

“使一切住在亞細亞的，無論是猶太人是希臘人，都聽見主的道。”

It's important at this point to understand two things...1) Paul is VERY well known and very popular. 2) The message of Jesus is taking root and multiplying at a remarkably rapid rate.

重要的是要了解两件事... 1) 保罗非常出名并且非常受欢迎。 2) 耶稣的正在作扎根的工作，并以极快的速度增长。

And the thing is: it's not just a 'message' people are hearing - it's power they're experiencing. Miracles are happening through Paul - so much so that people are bringing their handkerchiefs and aprons to him to touch and then taking them to sick people who are healed. 事实是：人们听到的不仅仅是一个“消息”，而是他们正在体验的力量。保罗正在发生奇迹-如此之多，以至于人们将手帕和围裙带到保罗身上抚摸，然后将它们带到病人那里，医治病人。

In the Roman Empire as well as the Jewish diaspora, magic and divination is a big deal even if it wasn't usually the real deal. So this is revival. People are being healed and delivered - but the BIGGER thing is yet to come. 在罗马帝国以及犹太人的海外流亡中，魔术和占卜是一件大事，即使魔术和占卜并不是真正有那么大的能力。所以这是复兴。人们正在被医治和运送-但更大的事情尚未到来。

In vs. 19 it tells us that people who had been involved in sorcery get together and burn their scrolls publicly - when they add up the value of the scrolls it comes to 50,000 drachmas - this would be several million dollars today This is a significant moment because this is the where the seeds of the message of Jesus poke up through the ground in the lives of these baby believers. 在第19节中，它告诉我们参与魔术的人们聚在一起并公开燃烧其卷轴-当他们将卷轴的价值加起来时，就得出50,000德拉克马-今天将是几百万美元。这是非常重要的时刻。因为这是耶稣福音的种子在这些初信者的生活中开始彰显出来。

It's one thing to listen to the message and to say Yes with every head bowed and every eye closed. Another thing altogether when it comes time to pay the bill - when it begins to cost you in obedience or suffering or money. That's this moment. it's this put up or shut up situation and this shows that these people are all in. The people are turning as a result of heart change to allow sweeping LIFE change -this is where they move into something that looks like wholehearted relationship with Jesus.

聆聽訊息，低下頭，閉上雙眼，說“是”是一回事。總而言之，當需要付代價-當它開始使您付出服從或痛苦或金錢時。就在這一刻。就是這種停滯或閉嘴的情況，這表明這些人全都投入了。人們由於心的變化而轉向，從而使生活發生了徹底的變化-在這裡，他們進入了一種與耶穌全心全意的關係。

Wholehearted = Singular devotion to the person and purpose of Jesus Christ to the exclusion of all more enticing or impressive options. 全心全意 = 对耶稣基督的人和目的的虔诚奉献，排除了所有更诱人的选择。

It may not be easy to describe, but you know it when you see it. That's what we're

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Acts 19:28-32 When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together. ...the assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there...”

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In Matthew 21, Jesus goes on a rampage cleaning out the temple - the temple that was built to honor God's name and to house His presence - and it is now filled with people who just want to make a buck. What used to be a place for wholehearted worship became a shopping mall instead. How do we get there? There are a million things that pull at our devotion to the way of Jesus: Paul calls it the “sin that so easily entangles us”. Small gods, silly idols. Reputation, pride, greed, dishonesty. But there is also a whole swamp of “good” things that keep us divided.

耶穌在馬太福音21章中橫沖直撞地清理了這座聖殿，這座聖殿是為紀念神的名字而建造的，目的是為了容納神的同在。現在，聖殿里堆滿了只想賺錢的人。曾經是全心全意崇拜的地方，後來變成了購物中心。我們怎么去那里？一百万种事物使我们热爱耶稣的道路：保罗称其为“很容易缠住我们的罪”。小神，愚蠢的偶像。声誉，骄傲，贪婪，不诚实。但是，也有所謂“好”事情使我们與神的心意分離。

He did what was right in the Lord' s sight, but not wholeheartedly. 2 Chronicles 25:2  
亞瑪謝行耶和華眼中看為正的事，只是沒有純正的心。

These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Matthew 15:8 『這百姓用嘴唇尊敬我，他們的心卻遠離我。

Wholehearted love for Jesus will show in our lives and ripple out into our world.  
对耶稣的全心全意的爱将在我们的生活中展现出来，并波及到我们的世界。

Do a self-check for these signs of a divided heart:

1. Reliance other sources for the help only Jesus can give. (story)
2. Myopic focus on being right instead of loving right.
3. Spiritual, emotional and relational numbness.

自我检查是否全心全意愛神：

1. 依靠其他资源获得只有耶稣才能提供的帮助。
2. 近视专注于正确而不是爱正确。
3. 精神，情感和关系上的麻木。

Give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name. Psalm 86:11  
求你使我專心敬畏你的名！