

They're Never Going to Like Your Message

*Courageously Multiply: A Series in the Book of Acts)*

**November 22, 2020**

## **THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE**

*Context:*

On Paul's third missionary journey, the evangelist encountered angry mobs and satanic forces. But still, by the power of God, more souls were continually added to the church. God always won. And as his child, you are a winner. Don't be distracted by cultural nonsense. Don't buy the lie that the Church is losing. Instead, think like a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christian. Stay true to your calling and bring the good news of Jesus to everyone that you possibly can.

Today, I want to prepare you for battle. I want you to trust God for strength. If you're an on-fire Christian, just know that no matter how much you don't want this to be true: They're never going to like your message. But you're not trying to please *them*. The goal is to please God.

### **Key Scripture -**

**Acts 19:11-28:**

#### **The Sons of Sceva**

<sup>11</sup>And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup>so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. <sup>13</sup>Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." <sup>14</sup>Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. <sup>15</sup>But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. <sup>17</sup>And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. <sup>18</sup>Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. <sup>19</sup>And a

number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. <sup>20</sup>So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

### **A Riot at Ephesus**

<sup>21</sup>Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." <sup>22</sup>And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

<sup>23</sup>About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup>For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. <sup>25</sup>These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. <sup>26</sup>And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. <sup>27</sup>And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

<sup>28</sup>When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

## **DISCUSSION & APPLICATION**

- 1. The sons of Sceva were exorcists. But they were under the influence by Satan. They'd seen Paul do miracles and thought they'd try to use the name of Jesus to aid their occultist enterprise. It didn't work out well! Where do you see the gospel message being used for personal gain? How can you protect yourself from being led astray by such people?**

