

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL COUNTERFEITS"

Big Idea: Spiritual counterfeits rage and riot, but are finally overruled by the true King.

For individual study or discussion

What is most precious to you? It's easy to discover what is most precious to a little child—they generally insist on carrying it around everywhere or wearing it daily. What those who are older most value is often not as readily apparent. Perhaps you've discovered during the months of this pandemic that something you thought you valued lightly was actually a major part of your identity when it was stripped away.

The familiar hymn "All for Jesus" recognizes the eternal truth that many in this world "cling to gilded toys of dust" and boast (if they have it) of "wealth and fame and pleasure."¹ The Ephesians shouted with one voice "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" for two solid hours, some of them perhaps clutching their little statues of Artemis. What might we scream about in great anger because we fear its being taken away?

- 1) The cult of Artemis was one of the most popular in the Roman Empire, and worship of Artemis had major economic benefits for the city of Ephesus. We can also quickly grasp the appeal of devotion to Artemis once we understand that the goddess was believed to bring new life into the world and to take it away. She also could purportedly increase fertility and ease childbirth. (To see an ancient statue of Artemis and read more about the cult and the city of Ephesus, click [here](#).)
 - In what ways was the worship of Artemis threatened by the advance of Christianity?
 - What about the Gospel angers people today? Are people angered for the same reasons today as they were in Ephesus?
 - If we do indeed become like what we worship, how were those who worshiped (or profited from) Artemis and her cult like what they worshiped?
 - In what ways were Paul and his companions like Jesus, whom they worshiped? (See Acts 19:21-22, 26, 30 and 1 Cor. 16:8-9.)
- 2) Consider how God protected the early church and the early Christians prior to the riot in Ephesus. (See Acts 5:18-20, 34-39; 9:3, 12:6-7, 12:22-23, and 16:22-34.)
 - How is God's protection of Paul in Ephesus similar and how is it different from the way he protected his people prior to this event?
 - How did the resolution of this riot (and the way it was resolved) help pave the way for the continuing spread of the Gospel?
 - What does this story teach us about God? (See also Psalm 46:6-7 and Psalm 76.)

DATE: September 27, 2020

SPEAKER: Joe, Brian

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 19:23-41

Family Dinner Table

If you can, take time either before or after dinner to watch this six minute [video](#) from BibleProject.com that explains what the Bible means when it says that humans, both male and female, are "created in the image of God." (Gen. 1:27)

The people who yelled and screamed in the 25,000 seat auditorium in Ephesus were quite familiar with images of Artemis, whom they believed to be a great goddess and the benefactor of their city (the one, in other words, who protected them and gave them good things). She wasn't really a god, though. As Paul said, gods made by hands aren't gods. So even if we were to find by digging in the ground around Ephesus thousands of little statues of Artemis, we don't believe that Artemis is real.

What we do have around us every day, however, are images of the one, true God. Because of the Fall, none of us reflects God perfectly. But everyone, however they look and whatever they do, is made in the image of God. If you know and believe that, how will it affect the way you live and the way you interact with everyone around you?

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Bethel Bible Village

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

David and Eowyn Stoddard serving with MTW in Germany

¹Mary D. James wrote "All for Jesus!" in 1871 as a New Year's resolution.