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Sermon Outline

“The Reality of Spiritual Counterfeits”  
*Acts 19:23-41*

1. The logic of spiritual counterfeits (vv. 23-27)

* The spiritual counterfeits **reject loss** brought on by outsiders as far too costly (protective investing).
* Those in the Gospel Kingdom **accept loss** as a price worth paying for the glory of God *and* the good of outsiders (redemptive suffering).

1. The passion of spiritual counterfeits (vv. 28-31)

* In self-protective fear, the spiritual counterfeits enflame the passions of many in order to stop a few enemies.
* With Spirit-empowered faith, those in the Gospel Kingdom are able to face the threats of many with courage: they truly seek to serve and bring the Gospel to their enemies.

1. God overrules the spiritual counterfeits (vv. 32-41)

* God is sovereign over all: he can even use the self-protective actions of his enemies to protect his people. (“Even the wrath of man shall praise you…” Psalm 76:10)

“We resemble what we revere, either for ruin or restoration.”

—Dr. Greg Beale, *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry*

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