

# sermon notes

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December 7, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church  
No Other Name | “Mass Hysteria at Ephesus” | **Acts 19:21–41**

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## Three reasons your “gods” aren’t worthy of your worship:

- 1) They are created things, not the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 19:21–26)
  
- 2) They are powerless and require \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 19:27–34)
  
- 3) They inspire fickle and unstable \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 19:35–41)

## Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Acts 19:21–41. Certainly there were hundreds of events that took place with Paul in Ephesus. Some were written down in Scripture; some weren’t. Why do you think Luke (inspired by the Holy Spirit) added this passage to the book of Acts? Paul preaches no sermon here, so what is the implicit message of this text?

Do you think Demetrius and the craftsmen were more concerned about their pocketbooks or their goddess’s reputation? Why? How sincere do you think their worship of Artemis was? How sincere do you think the worship of the Ephesians and the other Asians was? Do you think the town clerk’s comments about Artemis were sincere (19:35–36), or was he just trying to quiet the crowd?

Why did the Ephesian disciples hold Paul back from going into the angry crowd (19:30)? Was this the right decision? Are there times when leaders need to be protected? How do we balance discernment in a dangerous situation with the boldness and courage that are often exemplified in Acts?

### GET PERSONAL

Very few, if any, people worship Artemis in today’s world. But idols and idolatry are still everywhere. People make gods out of everything and anything. List some of the “gods” that people worship other than the true God of the universe. Which of those “gods” are Christians tempted to worship?

Paul confronted idolatry directly in Ephesus. He told the Ephesians that “gods made with hands are not gods” (19:26). What issues in our day should Christians confront? How should Christians speak truth with both courage and compassion?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Look up the following passages on idolatry: Exod 20:3–6; 1 John 5:21; Col 3:5; Isa 44:9–20; Lev 19:4; 1 Cor 10:14; Gal 4:8; Acts 17:29. Tim Keller once defined an “idol” as anything in your life that is so central to your life that you can’t have a meaningful life if you lose it. Is there anything in your life, besides God, that could be characterized by that definition?

### ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Martin Luther argued that the first commandment was strategically placed first: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exod 20:3). He concluded that you never break commandments two through ten (see Exod 20:3–17) without also breaking the first commandment. What did Luther mean by that statement? Is he right?