## Mission Zone Tour 2023



Empowered for a Difference Acts 19:23-41



<sup>23</sup> About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup> A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans.

<sup>25</sup> These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, "Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business. <sup>26</sup> You also see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost the whole of Asia this Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by 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 will be scorned, and she will be deprived of her majesty that brought all Asia and the world to worship her."

<sup>28</sup> When they heard this, they were enraged and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 The city was filled with the confusion; and people rushed together to the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's travel companions.

<sup>30</sup> Paul wished to go into the crowd, but the disciples would not let him; <sup>31</sup> even some officials of the province of Asia, who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theater.

32 Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd gave instructions to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed forward.

And Alexander motioned for silence and tried to make a defense before the people. <sup>34</sup> But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours all of them shouted in unison, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

35 But when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Citizens of Ephesus, who is there that does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the statue that fell from heaven? <sup>36</sup> Since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. <sup>37</sup> You have brought these men here who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. Thy Kingdom Come – Reviving the Church to

Restore the World

38 If therefore Demetrius and the artisans with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls; let them bring charges there against one another. 39 If there is anything further you want to know, it must be settled in the regular assembly.

<sup>40</sup> For we are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion."

<sup>41</sup> When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

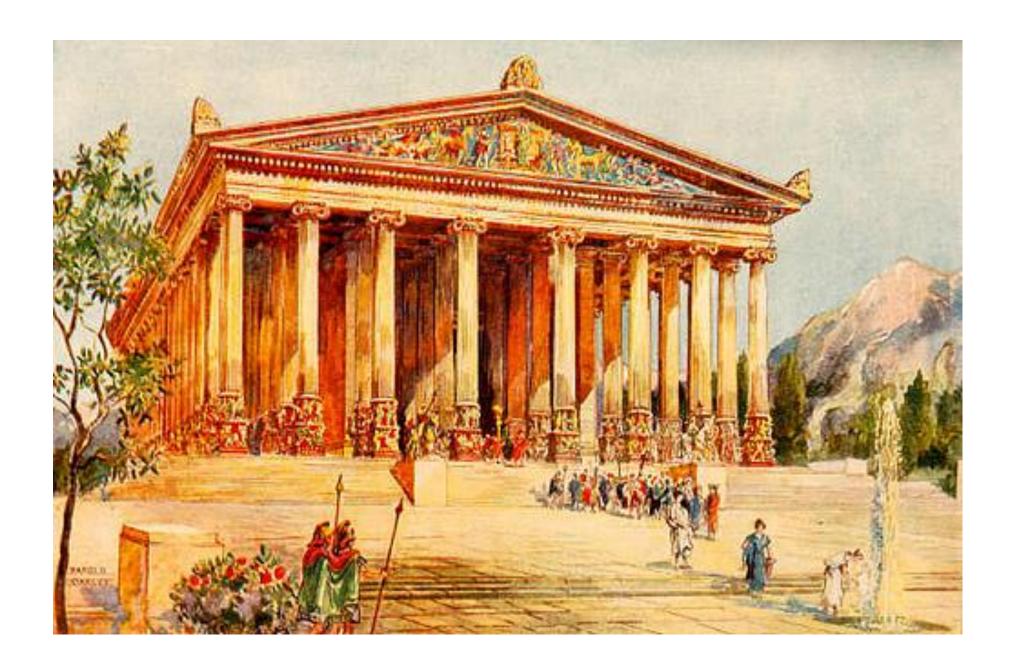
Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord! Congregation: Thanks be to God!

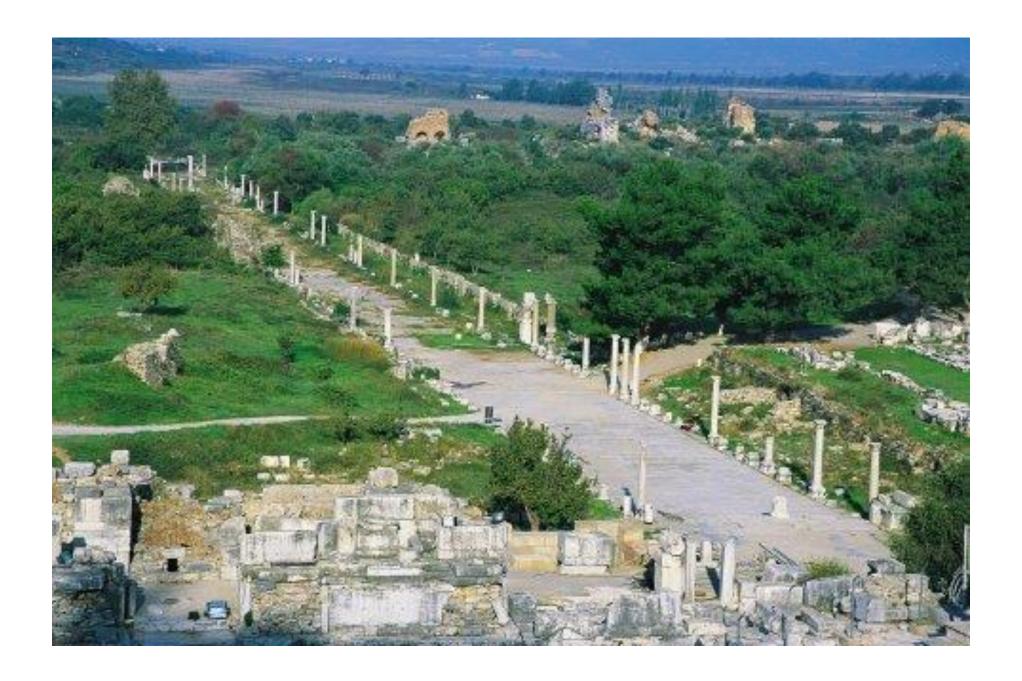
Empowered for a Difference Acts 19:23-41



## The Holy Spirit hit the church and the church hit the streets

- Does following Jesus make any difference?
- Does the fact that your church exists make any difference?







## We must think strategically in advancing the kingdom

## <sup>23</sup> About that time *no little disturbance* broke out concerning the Way.



## We don't need to *protect* our God We need to *proclaim* our God



## What was it that caused no little disturbance among the people?

## What was it that caused *no little* disturbance among the people?

## Our message — Jesus is Lord — makes everything different!

# The Christian message of the Total and Complete Lordship of Jesus over every area of our lives can be offensive to our culture

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To proclaim that Jesus is Lord means that nothing else can be.

## "The alternative to being offensive ... Was to be irrelevant..." N.T. Wright

The church has been too satisfied with being *irrelevant* because we don't want to risk being *offensive* 

The Total Complete Lordship of Jesus through the infilling of the Holy Spirit makes all the difference in the world

# The Holy Spirit hit the church The Church hit the streets The streets were cleaned up It made a difference!

## It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to advance the Kingdom of Christ

Are you ready to make the world different?