

## Protest - Panic - Peace

### I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-6 Lar/Al: Dismiss CK. Volunteers CK. REAL. Thanksgiving. Ladies Xmas. Hiring.

B. Slide7 C@R: Our **day** changed to the **22nd**. The **time** for that night has changed as well. *We will be meeting at 5:00 pm and will be taking a “virtual” tour of AIM (Agape International Ministry) in Cambodia!* Kel & I have personally visited *Svay Pak, Cambodia* and observed the amazing work this organization is doing and have been supporting them for many years.

1. We had a team set up to go to Cambodia in June and then...Covid. We pray that we will get back there soon. **But** until then, this is a great way for you to see what's happening in their ministry. **We will be doing a real time zoom call** on the large screen in the sanctuary, **and** the staff on the ground will share some **updates**, give us a **quick tour** of their *school, Employment Center, and House Church*. They will share a few quick videos and offer time for Q&A. **This is going to be a fun, engaging, and interactive time**. Join us as we learn more about the anti-human trafficking work they've been doing, **and** how the Lord has **transformed their entire city** because of it.

C. Slide8 Wed Night: *Magnificence of Community*. Pastor Mike, wrap up (Trinity *to* heaven)

D. Slide9 3 min Video *how to keep our overseas workers safe (learners)*. 6 tips.

E. Prayer:

### II. Slide10 Intro: Protest - Panic - Peace

A. Note in this picture: the theater of Ephesus (500' diam. held 25,000) & the street the Arcadian Way (as it is today).

B. **Protests** usually start with a core group who understands what they're doing **and** why they're doing it.

1. These movements or events often become *victims of their own success*. It becomes *trendy*, **or** people who *just like rioting* show up **but** don't really get what's going on at all...**and** *end up ruining the movement*.

2. Some have a clear objective **and** a legitimate gripe. **And** other people, because...*hey, it's riot day!*

3. This is the way it's been for a long time, **and** here it is in Acts 19.

C. **The story** tells itself. *Let's READ it.*

### III. Slide11 **PAUL'S ITINERARY (21,22)** *note MAP*

A. vs.20 commenced the 5th division of Acts **and now** we move into our last section.

1. **He now heads to Rome via Jerusalem.** [prob deliver \$ for poor]

B. We also move from a group of *believers* who *sacrificed everything for God* (17-20) **to** a group who *sacrificed everything for gain* (23-28).

### IV. Slide12a **DEMETRIUS INSTIGATION (23-34)**

A. (24,25) **Demetrius** - the union leader, looks over his P&L notes at the end of the quarter, and realizes, *whoah, sales are down!* [root prob not *doctrinal, ethical, but economical*] **Or** this is *selfish greed masked as patriotism and religious loyalty*.

1. Demetrius, a **silversmith**, runs a guild of **silver-smithers**. **And** what they *smith* the most is **silver shrines**. (Taken partly frm Matt Whitman)

2. Slide12b/c **Artemis** (Diana/Roman) - was a grotesque multi-breasted statue. *Gk goddess of the hunt, the wilderness, wild animals, the Moon, & chastity.*

3. If you visit France you want to bring home *a little Eiffel tower* to yur family. **For some** this didn't mean anything *spiritual*, just a cool trinket. **For others** they are going to put it in their house, **and** place offerings next to it.

4. There are **smart and effective protest**, **but this is not it**. Just chanting *great is Artemis of the Ephesians* **and** being violent, is childish **and** is only **FB level debate**.

a) It's **not** what *principle people* do to try to affect change. **So** they drag **Gaius and Aristarchus** in, **why?** *Because it's a riot, duh!*

B. (26) He said that Paul said, **gods made w/o hands are not god** - **true**, you can't domesticate God. **You can't stick him in a building.**

C. (27) Now it becomes *political*, if you're against *Artemis*, your against *Ephesus*.

D. **Town clerks argument** (City Sec. or Chief Exec.) - **If** Artemis worship is so strong and powerful, **then** she has no need for the crowd to act on her behalf.

1. The clerk, knowing his job was on the line, carefully selects a few facts about proper legal channels.

a) He saves his **own job**, the **city's standing**, & the **disciples lives**.

2. **If you're playing chess**, you can moved a pawn, or piece, right in front of your opponent, to squarely **block them**. **That's what God does here**.

a) In our own lives, God has a way of arranging **unexpected events** & **unlikely people** to defend us. *We just have to wait for Him to make His Move.*

## V. Slide13a **PAUL'S PEACE (30,31)**

A. We learn from *Paul*, Panic or Peace is always...*your Pick*.

1. Paul displays **a frame of mind** to stay calm in spite of the panic of *uncontrollable & unpleasant circumstances*. **And** maybe even *feeling guilty* that this was because of him that his friends might be hurt.

2. It's a **shalom** type *peace*, of *quietness, confidence, security & rest*.

a) It's the steadiness of **Daniel** waiting in the **lions den**.

It's the serenity of **Jesus** asleep in the storm-tossed **boat**.

It's the joyful singing of **Paul & Silas** chained together in their **jail**.

It's the stability of **Paul** wanting to go into this **theater** & help his friends.

B. How do we **unlock** this kind of **peace** in our lives?

1. **Slide13b Isaiah** gives us **the key**. Is.26:3,4 **You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.**

a) This was *a song* (vs.1) the prophet Isaiah sang.

2. **You keep him...on you...in you** - **God** gives peace to His people.

3. God **keeps** - or watches over, or protects. *It's an unending security.*

4. **It's a perfect, peace**. In the original *peace, peace or shalom, shalom*.

a) A **duplicating** peace. A *peace that really is peace*.

5. **It's a mind stayed on God**, or being *steadfast of mind*. A mind that *leans upon* Him.

6. Put these together & the line reads, *The frame of mind that is leaning on & receiving support from You, O Lord, You will protect with infinite calm.*

C. Slide13c The point: *Those who throw themselves on God, who remove all other crutches, who abandon their anxieties & fears, will experience God's shalom.*

1. That's how **Isaiah sang** it. That's how **Paul lived** it. That's how you/I **find** it.

## VI. Slide14a LEGITIMATE GRIPE?

A. **Yes**, *there's something subtle here...*

1. Back in ch.16 **Paul** came against a **slave girl** who had the **spirit of python**, which was under the power of **Apollo**.

a) Slide14b **Apollo** was the *rockstar-dude-god* of Greece, **and** his twin sister **Artemis** was the *rockstar-female-goddess* both were *crazy popular* in their area

2. So here we have a 2nd confrontation w/the **Apollo/Artemis family**, where **Paul & the message of Jesus** wins out.

a) To the original audience *this Jesus thing* is catching on **and** had just run-over the most popular expressions of Greek religion.

3. So this friction makes sense. It would be weird if this passage wasn't here. **Luke is writing about the greatest social change in the classical world, right here.** So following **Jesus**...we should expect *serious turbulence*. *It would be suspicious if it was not here.*

B. **We all have things we are passionate about.** And we are *absolutely sure* we are **right**.

1. **But** we all have the capacity to be **wrong** at some time.

2. If my idea is so weak it needs **violence** to make it happen, *it might not be* that good of an idea. Even if we win, the other side will eventually respond with violence against us. *Winning like that is not sustainable.* The other side will come back with *the same technique*.

3. **Violence doesn't make some thing that isn't true, true.** It just makes the person who participates in violence, **violent**.

a) Slide15 **Grace and Peace** have to be the **trademark** of Christians.