**Unstoppable - wk 34 – The Purge**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**28 yrs since Jesus’ resurrection – Paul’s in Ephesus (2 yrs)**

**7 sons of Sceva incident – turned into a revival.**

**People confessing and turning from sin, believing the gospel, following Jesus - turning from their past - being transformed – it was true revival.**

**Acts 19:21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.**

**Had not left yet, but that’s the year itinerary: visit the churches again then go back and report to the apostles in Jerusalem - then head out to Rome. Sends Timothy and Erastus ahead…**

**Demetrius starts a riot – The Purge.**

**Acts 19:23 About that time there arose no little disturbance (it’s big!) concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen.**

**Temple of Dianna / Artimus (pics) goddess of wild and domestic animals and hunting, her name means sky / daylight - the moon.**

**Wonder woman is supposed to be this personified.**

**Her temple was an ancient wonder of the world. 127 pillars, each 60 feet (6 stories) high, and was decorated with great sculptures.**

**At the center was a black meteor carved into an idol of Artemis. It served as a temple and a bank.**

**(One of the merchants who sold Artemis trinkets – was losing money) 25 These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. 26 And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. 27 And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute…**

**They did not care about the revival; they cared about the money. This Jesus thing is affecting business, we need to do something.**

**27 …but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.” (She may have to step away – causing calamity)**

**Acts 19:28 When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, (pic of the theater) dragging with them Gaius and Aris-tar-chus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel.**

**Paul taught there – but not there at that moment.**

**A couple of Paul's friends are jumped. Paul finds out - wants to get involved... let’s go!!!**

**30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, (to help them) the disciples would not let him. (Holding him back) 31 And even some of the Asiarchs, (prominent leaders) who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. (Convince him to stay back!!)**

**32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together.**

**Riots are usually born out of confusion and a lack of facts – conspiracies that get out of hand.**

**33 Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. 34 But when they (the Greeks) recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”**

**Two people assaulted - no order - no one listening. 2 hours.**

**It was chaos - no one was listening. Jews and Greeks wanted Paul out, but they had all lost control.**

**Acts 19:35 And when the town clerk (like a mayor) had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? (Mentioned earlier) 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess.**

**They did not do anything illegal. They had a pro-Jesus campaign not an anti-Artemis campaign. They did not attack people or places. They were innocent on all accusations.**

**38 If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. (Deal w/ it legally, don’t take the matter into your own hands – if they are guilty take them to court) 40 For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” (Rome will send people here if we don't settle down - National Guard) 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.**

**\*\* FYI – assembly = Ekklesia – the world has its churches too.**

**Clubs, bars, groups, organizations - That meet and rally around a cause and issue. But God has called us to a different assembly – a different cause – the cause of Christ.**

**Acts 20:1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.**

**It is probably best for you that I go ahead and leave.**

**Paul had developed deep friendships after 3 yrs. Goodbyes.**

**Two laps round the bend - He had a plan of visiting the Macedonian churches again to encourage, teach, and disciple – so he heads out.**

**MAP - Luke covers a lot of ground in a few verses) Acts 20:2 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, (Phil, Thess, Berea) he came to Greece. (Corinth) 3 There he spent three months, (writes Romans from Corinth) and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.**

**About to sail home to Antioch - finds out about a plot to kill him (possibly on the ship) decides to walk north and sail from there.**

**(8 people, 2 verses) Acts 20:4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristar-chus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tych-icus and Troph-imus. 5 These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, (us = Luke joined up in Philippi. They go ahead to Troas – Luke and Paul stay back) 6 but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, (7 days following Passover Jewish tradition, another brief example of how Paul worshiped, but did not put that on others) and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.**

**Let’s break this down… more pieced from other letters. MAP**

**Paul leaves Ephesus.**

* **Paul goes to Macedonia (encourages the churches- Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica) Joined by Timothy & Titus (2 Co 1:1, 7:5-7, 13-16) Then sends Titus to Corinth (2Co 8:16-24) w/ a letter, says, “I’m coming.”**
* **Paul goes to Greece – ends up in Corinth (3rd visit) stays 3 mths. Does a lot of house ministry (2 Cor). While there writes to Rome. He is joined by Timothy, Lucious, Jason, Sosipter, Tertius, Gaius, Erastus (Ro 16). Hears about a murder plot they heads out on foot.**
* **Paul goes back thru Macedonia – Collecting $ for those persecuted in Jerusalem (2 Cor, Ro 15, Gal 2) A group of seven companions are sent ahead to Troas. Paul and Luke stay back in Philippi. They head to Troas after the holidays of Passover.**

**\*\*\* They all then rally in Troas for 7 days. (Acts 20:6)**

**Next wk one of the funnier moments and one of the saddest moments of Paul’s adventures.**

**What an eventful year - plans that did not work out, riots broke out, murder plots fished out – The unexpected.**

**Lessons from the Chaos**

1. **True revival changes society, not just a room (Acts 19:23-27)**

**That's pretty amazing! People lives changed so much that it actually affected the economy of Ephesus and Asia minor - it changed how people spent their time and money. It spills out into our daily life – it leaves the building.**

**Believers decided, we are not going to buy that junk anymore. BTW - Our issue is not that culture is putting out garbage – the issue is that Christians are buying that garbage.**

**True faith in Jesus affects the community and vices. In the early years of the Salvation Army, they were so effective that pimps and bar owners organized a “Skeleton Army” to oppose them with threats and violence – and even a few Salvation Army workers were murdered.**

**If your faith in Jesus does not transform how you do life – live life – respond to life, it’s not true life in Christ.**

**Those opposing the Christians sited money loss and this - V27 “she whom all Asia and the world worship.” Everybody loves her! “Everybody does it”**

**“We are right because this is popular and accepted.”**

**Christians do not live by the “everybody does it” creed.**

**We don’t follow the majority – we follow God’s word.**

1. **What Jesus does in you will not always be accepted by others**

**God was working - setting people free and the response was frustration…**

**FYI - Moving closer to Jesus, will drift away some old friends.**

**Your friend may lose a drinking buddy / she might lose her gossip girl / the fun troublemaker has a change of attitude... they don't like the change. Parents might disown their child.**

**Jesus threatens some because they want to stay the same, do the same, be the same - they want sin. (Ro 1 they suppress the truth.)**

1. **God’s economy is different than the world’s economy.**

**- The worlds’ view of money, possessions, careers – high priority.**

**- The believers view of… low priority.**

**When the business leaders lost money - when went the economically bad. they responded in rage, chaos, and confusion.**

**The believers (Acts 19:19 – burned over mil-dollars’ worth of items)**

**They were willing to loss money if it meant knowing Jesus better.**

**Jesus spoke of laying up treasure in heaven. Matthew 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

**Paul counts it all as nothing – Philippians 3:7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ…**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 – Possessions in this life are meaningless – all that matters is to fear God and keep his word.**

**God’s economy is different than the world’s economy.**

1. **Don't rush into a fight - even if you’re right.**

**Paul was ready! I like his spirit - like us he doesn't always think it thru!**

**This was something that could have been then end for Paul, if his friends had not reigned him in. He had to be held back.**

**There are things worth fighting for and moments to take a stand, but Christians are sometimes so defensive and quick to attack.**

**What's the issue of the week? We forget who we are really fighting – and it’s not people. Our fight is not with culture but w/ deception from the enemy.**

**Paul later wrote to the Ephesians - Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.**

**Sometimes the best thing to do is be Jesus in those moments: Love others - Do what is right (stand firm) - and pray!**

1. **Healthy disciples will make disciples.**

**I love all the names in this section. People he discipled, people he worked with, people he sent out and launched into ministry and gave responsibility.**

**8 names in 2 verses: (Acts 20:4-5)**

1. **Sopater – a lover of God’s word**
2. **Aristarchus – attacked in Ephesus – a wealthy man**
3. **Secundas – means second, possible former slave**
4. **Gaius – also attacked, personally led to Christ by Paul. 3Jo written to him.**
5. **Timothy – Paul’s spiritual son, from Lystra, co-laborer, 2 letters written to him, was persecuted and imprisoned.**
6. **Tychicus – later deliver the Ephesians letter, Colossians, and Philemon, traveled with Onesimus (Philemon)**
7. **Trophimus – Falsely accused in Ephesus, was left sick in Miletus**
8. **Luke – Author of Luke and Acts – personal friend of Paul**

**Discipleship development was extremely important to Paul.**

**All these names and others – are his fruit.**

1. **Spreading the Gospel is always a team effort.**

**This is a small number of the many people mentioned throughout Acts who worked with Paul. He was never alone – was always a team effort.**

**Jesus always sent the disciples out in pairs. (Mt, Mk , Lu)**

**They were Paul’s co-laborers and friends – who worked alongside, trusted partners, preaching, teaching, emissaries, messengers, delivered letters, shepherded churches - risked lives, imprisoned, attacked, and martyrs. They did it as a team!**

**No lone ranger ministers. Not healthy and dangerous for pride, sin, accountability, doctrinal problems…**

1. **The pursuits of this world will fade but Christ will still forever stand**

**“They all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”**

**But where is that temple now? Where is her worship now?**

**1 Peter 1:24 For, “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands forever.” (Quoting Is 40) And this is the word that was proclaimed to you.**

**Isaiah 46:10 - I declare the end from the beginning, and ancient times from what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and all My good pleasure I will accomplish.'**

**(pic of the ruins) The truth stands – God always wins – Dianna /Artemis faded and was destroyed along with the other false deities – as will all that remains - three attempts to rebuild failed.**

**Jesus said this - Mark 8:34 “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?**

**For - Next week we make plans but God determines the outcome**

**The warrior prepares the horse, the Lord places the steps…**