

Katamares: Acts: 19:23-40.

### **19:24 *Demetrius, a Silversmith***

### **19:25 *Wealth from the Making of Shrines***

#### **Money Is Always Behind Idolatry.**

Chrysostom: Notice how in every case idolatry arises from money. With those people it was because of money, and likewise here. They did not fear that their religion was in danger but that their skills might no longer have a market. And look at the man's evil. He was well-off and to him this would have been no great loss. But to them it would have been a great loss, since they were poor and subsisted on their daily earnings. Nevertheless, it was not these men who said anything, but he. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 42.<sup>5</sup>

### **19:26 *A Large Number of People***

#### **Demetrius Bears Witness to Paul.**

Chrysostom: Do you see how he demonstrated that Paul's power was the greater and revealed all their gods to be miserable wretches, since a mere human, persecuted and only a tentmaker, had so much power? See how the enemies bore witness to the apostles. Earlier they said, "You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching." <sup>6</sup> Here, "Artemis may be deposed from her magnificence." Earlier, the men "who had turned the world upside down" heard, "They have come here also." <sup>7</sup> Here, "There is danger that this trade of ours may come into disrepute." So said the Jews with regard to Christ, "You see how the world is going after him," <sup>8</sup> and, "The Romans shall come and take away our city." <sup>9</sup> Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 42.<sup>10</sup>

### **19:27 *Artemis Deposed from Her Magnificence***

#### **Demetrius Knew Better.**

Ammonius: Demetrius knew that he was deceiving people by making temples and gods of silver for them. So he was afraid that his roguery and deception would be exposed through Paul's true teaching. It must be noted that the true faith shined forth to such an extent, even though it had not yet conquered the

world, that Demetrius was afraid that ultimately the temple of Artemis in Ephesus would be destroyed. He thus prophesied the temple's destruction, which has come to pass. Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 19.25.12

### **19:31 *Believers Beg Paul Not to Go into the Theater***

#### **The Faithful Sought Restraint.**

Chrysostom: "They urged him not to hand himself over" to the disorderly mob and the violence in the theatre, and Paul was persuaded, since he was neither vainglorious nor ostentatious.... Knowing his eagerness, they begged him, since all these faithful loved him so much. Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 19.30–31.1

### **19:32 *The Crowd in Confusion***

#### **One Ought Do Nothing Without Strict Examination.**

Chrysostom: Such is the way with the vulgar, to jump to conclusions and become enraged on any pretext. That is why one must do everything after careful consideration. But see how contemptible they are, how exposed to all excitements.... "Some cried one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion." For such is the behavior of a crowd. It simply follows, as when fire alights on wood. "And most of them did not know why they had come together." Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 42.2

### **19:35 *The Temple Keeper of Artemis***

#### **Their Religion a Pretext for Greed.**

Chrysostom: Rightly does the grammarian say, "Who is ignorant of the city of the Ephesians?" ... He does not say "Who does not know Artemis?" but "Who does not know your city?" which is what they were worshipping: ... they were trying to make their faith a pretext for making money. Catena on the Acts of the Apostles 19.35.3