

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Then Came Trouble

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 19:21–41

ICE BREAKER:

Do you like it when a show has a “previously on” segment, or do you think it’s a waste? Describe a time you were part of a big crowd. What drew everyone there?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

List the individuals and groups in this text. How do their backgrounds and values add to the drama of the story?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

With Christ’s claim for supremacy (see Matthew 28:18; Psalm 2), why does the message of the Gospel cause such a strong reaction in Ephesus and still today? What does this reveal about cultural, religious, and economic loyalties and allegiances?

Read Matthew 7:21-23 and discuss the difference between doing religious actions and genuine faith. What are the results of this genuine, bold faith on the world around us?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

How did the faithful believers in the Acts passage see God show up in their obedience and boldness? How have you seen God do this for you or for people you know? How does this encourage you this week?

Pray together for boldness in living your Christian life: not for ‘trouble’ in and of itself, but to be willing if that’s what faithfulness requires. Pray for fruit from any disruption or ‘trouble’ the Gospel might cause.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

In light of a world of both potential opposition and great need, what is the next genuinely Christian thing for you to do this week? Share with another. Follow up before next week.

PARENTING:

Read Matthew 5:13-16 as a family. Take a moment to talk about this passage as a family. Then encourage your child(ren) that when we truly follow Him, things are not the same as normal. We are here to not just hide our faith but to live out our faith to affect the people and world around us. We are to let our light shine before others so that others may give glory to God.

FURTHER STUDY:

For encouragement of the changes in society from the Welsh Revival, read ‘10 Things You Should Know about the Welsh Revival of 1904-06’ at www.samstorms.org.