



Sermon Notes (9/21/14)

When the Gospel Threatens the Idolatry – and Stability – of a Society

Acts 19.21-41

THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: the Church is generous & the gospel is going forth (21-22)

WHEN THE GOSPEL THREATENS SOCIAL STABILITY: a speech appealing to the sinful appetites (23-27)

1. *The gospel threatens economic comfort that's idolatrous* (25).

“Jesus warns people far more often about greed than about sex, yet almost no one thinks they are guilty of it...If greed hides itself so deeply, no one should be confident that it is not a problem for them.” **Tim Keller**, *Counterfeit Gods* (53)

“Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” **Luke 12.15** NASB

“To ‘consist’ of your possessions is to be defined by what you own and consume. The term describes a personal identity based on money. It refers to people who, if they lose their wealth, do not have a ‘self’ left, for their personal worth is based on their financial worth.” **Tim Keller**, *Counterfeit Gods* (56)

2. *The gospel threatens the “religion” of economic demand* (26).

3. *The gospel threatens idolatrous nationalism (27).*

THE IRRATIONALITY OF IDOLATRY: a mob mentality that turns riotous (28-34)

1. *The idolatry of our hearts manifests in sinful anger (28: rage).*

“Whoever is not tamed and brought down to bear Christ’s yoke, he shall always hate his gospel...Faithful and godly teachers must persuade themselves that they shall always have to deal with great store of enemies.” **John Calvin**, *Commentaries: Acts of the Apostles* (XIX: 225)

2. *The idolatry of our hearts often manifests in our words (Great is Artemis...).*

3. *Idolatry produces an irrational herd mentality (29, 32).*

THE COURAGE OF THE TRUE WORSHIPER: an apostle wanting to preach to a hostile stadium (30, 31)

WHEN THE GOSPEL IS POLITICALLY PROTECTED: a political speech appealing to rationality (35-41)