

## Our Journey -- The Season of Formation

### Romans 8:29 -- Mirror Translation

For those He foreknew -- He also predestined to be conformed to the exact image of His Son.

### Base Camp 1 -- The Camp of Hard Truth

May 11, 2026

Sermon Title – A Snapshot of the Summit

Text -- Acts 19:35-41

At last, the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. “Citizens of Ephesus,” he said. “Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. 36 Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. 37 You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess. 38 “If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges. 39 And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. 40 I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won’t know what to say.” 41 Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.

### **Introduction**

We have been hanging at the base camp of hard sayings for a few weeks now ... Let's be honest – it has not been a comfortable stop – nor was it ever meant to be ... These collisions were designed to make us stop – take a hard look on the inside – and begin the awakening process ... At this place in our journey – things needed to be laid down – stripped away – in order to create space for our awakening to happen.

We are coming to the time to resume our journey up the mountain of formation ... But before we resume the climb – I want you to take another look at the summit ... Now – if you have allowed the collisions to do their internal work while at base camp – I guarantee the view will look wildly different than when you first arrived ... Your eyes are now clearer – and your load is lighter ... Your perspective has more clarity than when you started ... Here is a kingdom principle worth locking in – what you consistently focus on – you will move toward ... So, this morning – I want to give you something worth focusing on.

As we finish our look at Acts 19 – Luke gives us a clear snapshot of what a summit living – kingdom being – actually looks like ... In our text – we find a man who walks into the same riot – the same mob – the same chaos we have been examining for weeks ... And what is interesting – he is completely unaffected by it ... Not because he was unaware of what was happening around him – but because of what he was carrying on the inside ... That is the contrast we are going to examine this morning ... The crowd on one side – totally out of control ... And this man on the other – operating from a place of complete peace and clarity ... And here is the key principle to capture ... There is the glaring difference between – those who live at the bottom of the mountain and those who live at the top.

## **The Crowd Was Reactive – While the Mayor Was Settled**

### **Acts 19:35 -- New Living Translation**

The mayor of the city was finally able to quiet them down. "Citizens of Ephesus," he said, "Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven."

Think about what Luke is describing here ... This is the same crowd that just shouted down Alexander – never allowing him to say a single word ... The same crowd that was in total chaos – yelling – screaming – and as Luke clearly told us – most of them didn't even know why they were there ... This wasn't simply a mild disagreement – this was a full-blown riot ... And it was this exact atmosphere – the mayor walks right into ... Now catch this – the mayor never raised

his voice – never got animated – never tried to match their emotional energy ... He simply walked in – began to speak – and the atmosphere completely shifted

The crowd had been feeding off each other for hours ... Emotion producing more emotion ... Outrage fueling more outrage ... That is what unchecked group think always does – it multiplies ... It has no limits nor clear direction ... It simply escalates until something or someone interrupts it ... The mayor walked into that situation – confident – and with total clarity ... The emotionally charged atmosphere had zero affect upon him – because his internal world was in complete peace ... He wasn't there trying to process the chaos on the fly ... He was focused and calculated ... Philippians 4:7 from the Amplified reminds us - - - "And the peace of God -- that peace which reassures the heart -- that peace which transcends all understanding -- that peace which stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus -- is yours."

Peace of mind and heart is never absence – even when you are surrounded by the chaos of the moment ... The mayor had it ... The crowd didn't ... And that is the clearest distinction between those who live at the bottom of the mountain – from those who live at the summit ... Now catch this.

### **The Crowd Was Confused – Where the Mayor Had Clarity**

#### **Acts 19:36-38 -- New Living Translation**

"Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess. If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the judges can hear the case."

Remember what Luke already told us ... Most of the people in that crowd didn't even know what was going on ... They felt the energy in the atmosphere ... They heard the outrage – and they joined in without ever stopping to ask why ... That is the manifestation of group think – it

takes confusion – dresses it up – to look like certainty ... Catch this truth ... People shouting the loudest are often the most confused – they just don't know it yet.

Now the mayor steps into that same environment – and he immediately begins to bring clarity to the chaos ... He didn't walk in swinging ... He assessed the situation accurately ... He separated fact from emotion ... He acknowledged what was real and dismissed what was not ... He pointed the crowd toward a rational path forward – and because his clarity was grounded – they actually received it.

Here is something worth understanding ... Clarity is not a matter of intelligence ... Clarity is the result of a mind – that has not been hijacked – by emotion – group think – or ideology ... When a person's mind gets captured by the chaos – they will always be in a state of confusion ... But when a person's mind is anchored in peace – rather than the chaos around them – they will always be able to see what others cannot ... That is exactly what separated the mayor from the crowd in that stadium ... His mind was not controlled by the riot – and because of that – he had complete clarity and understanding of the situation.

1 Corinthians 14:33 -- Mirror Translation says - - - “God is not the author of confusion – but of peace.” ... Confusion is never an accident ... It is always a condition ... The mayor refused to surrender his mind to the group think and emotion of the situation ... Instead he chose internal peace and clarity ... Now – catch this last distinction.

### **The Crowd Sought a Villain – While the Mayor Sought a Resolution**

#### **Acts 19:40-41 -- New Living Translation**

"And if you keep this up, we are in danger of being charged with rioting -- since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say." Then he dismissed them and they dispersed.

Here is the thing about a mob ... Their riot depended entirely upon having a villain ... Remove the villain – and the mob immediately loses its reason for existing ... Take away the noise and emotion – and the cause simply collapses ... As powerful as that crowd looked and sounded – the energy fades away – when the target is removed ... The moment the mayor redirected their focus – the riot dissolved ... Because the riot never had a real issue holding it together in the first place.

Now look at the mayor ... He walks into that crowd with no target – no villain – no personal agenda – and nothing to prove to anyone ... He came in with one singular purpose – to restore order ... And the moment that purpose was accomplished – he was finished ... He didn't linger ... He didn't take a victory lap ... He didn't need anyone to validate what he had just done ... He simply did what he came to do – and walked away ... That is a picture of a man who is completely secure in who he is and the purpose at hand.

That is what a kainos being looks like when they walk into a riot ... They are not the loudest person in the room ... They are not the most forceful ... They are not the most aggressive ... They are simply the most focused and purposed ... Proverbs 29:11 -- Passion Translation says - - "A fool gives full vent to his anger -- but a wise man quietly holds it back."

The crowd vented everything they had ... Every emotion – every ounce of outrage – and in the end – they accomplished nothing but chaos ... The mayor held his inner peace ... He spoke only what was necessary – and said exactly what needed to be said ... He trusted the truth to do its own work ... That is not weakness – that is wisdom ... And wisdom operating from a place of inner peace – will always accomplish more than rage operating from a place of offense.

### **Takeaway**

Let me encourage you before we resume our climb ... You have done some serious work at this base camp ... You have looked honestly at offense ... At borrowed outrage ... At group think ... At the cancer that quietly spreads through a crowd that never stopped asking why ... None of

that was easy to deal with – and it was never meant to be ... This is the base camp where you will either decide to quit – get offended and turn back – or shed the old so you can make room for the new.

Now – my admonition ... What you have shed off at this first base camp – leave it here ... The offense ... The borrowed narratives ... The identity you have built around a false ego ... None of it belongs on the climb ahead ... The mountain will expose dead weight every single time – and the higher you go – the heavier it gets ... Leave it here.

Fix your eyes on the snapshot you saw this morning ... A man who walked into a riot at complete peace ... Who saw clearly when everyone around him was confused ... Who needed no villain to validate his purpose ... Who walked away when the work was done without needing any recognition ... That is what awaits at the summit ... Are you ready to climb?