

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

Acts 18:23-21:14

Prayer

O God the Savior of the whole world, sometimes we are afraid to spread Your word. Help us today to learn of someone who spread Your word to many parts of the world even when things became very dangerous. Give us the desire to hear Your Holy Word today so we, too, can learn to become missionaries for You. We pray this in Your name. Amen.



The Story

The Apostle Paul's third missionary journey took him to the big city of Ephesus. Ephesus was a very old city and Paul brought a new idea there. The people who lived there did not know about the True God. The Ephesians believed in a false goddess whom they called Diana. They said she was the daughter of Zeus, another false god. There was a giant temple to Diana in Ephesus. Many tourists came every year and they bought souvenirs, mostly small statues of Diana, made by silversmiths whose shops were everywhere in the city. The silversmiths made a lot of money this way.

Paul had not been in Ephesus very

long before those silversmiths became very angry. They were so angry that they started a riot. Why would they be so angry? They were worried because Paul told the people that Diana was an idol and that Jesus was the True God. This message is known as the Gospel. They shouted that Jesus would ruin their religion and their government! Everyone gathered in the streets, shouting and fighting.

Many people came out of their houses and tried to grab Paul. A big riot started. Finally the city clerk made them let Paul and his helpers go.

But Paul was not frightened off by this trouble. He stayed here in Ephesus



for a long time so he could bring the Gospel to the Gentiles. He was a missionary. He preached every day and told the people that Jesus loved them and died to save them. He told them that Jesus is stronger than death. Jesus rose from His grave so that we can all live in Heaven with Him when we die. He took the punishment that we deserve for sinning. Many, many people believed what Paul said about Jesus. And the Holy Spirit was always with Paul, helping him be brave.

The believers loved Pastor Paul. They kept him safe and listened to his sermons. They gave him money to take back to the hungry Christians in Rome.

Paul preached to the people in Ephesus and many became believers.

Activity One - Fill in the blank to tell what happened in our story. Use words from the box below.

angry riot Jesus Gospel missionary



1. Paul told the people in Ephesus about _____.
2. The people who made idols were _____.
3. The people caused a _____.
4. Paul was a good _____.
5. We can be like Paul by telling others the _____.

Activity Two - Look at the first column below. It lists things that Paul did as he worked as a missionary. In the second column, write **YES** if you could do the same thing. Write **NO** if you couldn't do what Paul did. Explain the reason for your answer. When you are done, compare your answers with your friends and your teacher.

Paul as a Missionary	Me as a Missionary (YES or NO? Explain.)
Was a good pastor	
Was a friend	
Wrote letters to worried people	
Wrote sermons	
Wrote hymns	
Healed sick people	
Raised people from the dead	
Wrote books of the Bible	
Wrote letters about the love of Jesus	
Trained people to become pastors	

Activity Three - Answer these questions.

1. Do you think Paul was afraid during his stay in Ephesus? Would you be afraid? Discuss with the class.
2. What was the most important thing Paul did while he was in Ephesus? Why do you think as you do?

Passages - The passages below help in understanding today's story. Explain how the passage fits the story.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."
Proverbs 3:5

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6

"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

Hymn - Pick your favorite stanza from the hymn "*Send Thou, O Lord to Every Place*" (TLH #506) shown below. Tell why you like that verse. Try to keep our story today in mind as you choose your favorite stanza.

1. Send Thou, O Lord, to every place Swift messengers before Thy face, The heralds of Thy wondrous grace, Where Thou Thyself wilt come.	3. To bring good news to souls in sin, The bruised and broken hearts to win; In ev'ry place to bring them in Where Thou Thyself wilt come.
4. Thou who hast died, Thy vict'ry claim; Assert, O Christ, Thy glory's name And far to lands of pagan shame Send men where Thou wilt come.	5. Gird each one with the Spirit's Sword, The sword of Thine own deathless Word, And make them conquerors, conquering Lord, Where Thou Thyself wilt come.

My favorite stanza is number _____. I like it because...

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, thank You for working in my heart to believe in Jesus. Please work in the hearts of the people that we tell about Jesus so that they believe in Jesus, too. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.