

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 37

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY – PART 2

DIANA PART 2

Paul sent Timothy and Erastus ahead to Macedonia, his next planned destination. He remained in Ephesus for a little while longer. The Macedonians Gaius and Aristarchus were with Paul as the revival continued.

Demetrius, a silversmith stirred up trouble. He called together the others of the silversmith guild. The complaint was a loss of sales of their silver artifacts of Diana and the magnificent temple honoring her. So many of Diana's worshippers were getting saved that their sales had plummeted. They created such a stir that it affected the whole city. (Acts 23-41.)

They caught Gaius and Aristarchus and brought them to the town clerk to be judged before an assembly. Paul desired to join them, but his friends constrained him.

Alexander was put forth by the Jews to be a spokesman, but when the Ephesians learned he was a Jew (as was Paul), they shouted him down crying out in verse 34, "**Great is Diana of the Ephesians.**"

The town clerk took control of the mob. He told them that everyone in the city knew that Ephesus is devoted to the great goddess Diana, the daughter of Jupiter and twin sister of Apollo. Nobody can dispute that fact, so you need to just let go of this matter and leave it alone. If Demetrius and the silversmiths have a problem with any man, let them take it to a court of law. As for this uproar, you are putting us in jeopardy with the Roman authorities, and we can give no legal reason for this trouble. With this, he dismissed them and sent them away.

This signaled the end of Paul's stay in Ephesus. He was now ready to move on to Macedonia in Europe.