

acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 11
September 15
Acts 19-21

“Declaring to You the Whole Counsel of God”

Acts 18:23 describes the beginning of a third missionary journey of Paul, but we are also introduced to a new character in the story.

Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (18:24-26)



Paul made his way to Ephesus where he spent three months reasoning and persuading in the Jewish synagogue about the kingdom of God. When some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way, he began reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. Over the course of two years, “all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks” (19:10). After a riot was stirred up in Ephesus (19:23-41), Paul made his way to Troas. “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart the next day” (20:7). As he prolonged his speech until midnight, a young man named Eutychus sank into a deep sleep and fell from a third story window, but Paul was empowered by the Holy Spirit to raise him from the dead (20:7-12). On his way back toward Jerusalem, Paul eventually stopped in Miletus to share an important message with the elders of the church in Ephesus:

- I didn’t shrink from sharing publicly and privately with Jews and Greeks the message of repentance and faith in Jesus.
- I am going back to Jerusalem and I don’t know what’s going to happen there, but I probably won’t see any of you face-to-face again.
- You have heard the whole counsel of God.
- You must pay careful attention to yourselves and to the flock of God over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers.
- Fierce wolves are going to come in among you, and from among your own selves men speaking twisted things will arise and draw disciples away after them.
- Therefore be alert.

In fact, **Acts 21** tells us about Paul being arrested in Jerusalem. We’ve got lots to talk about so let’s dig in.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- We were introduced to Apollos in [Acts 18:24-28](#). What do you see in those verses that ought to make us appreciate Apollos' heart and attitude? What can we learn from him?
- [Acts 19:1-7](#) tells us about some disciples in Ephesus who had only heard about and responded to John's baptism. How did Paul handle this situation and what can we learn from it?
- [Acts 19:11-17](#) tells us about some extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul. How did some of the "itinerant Jewish exorcists" get themselves in trouble?
- We've heard the call to "repent" many times in Acts. How does [19:18-20](#) help us understand what repentance is and what it looks like?
- According to [19:23-27](#), how did a riot break out in Ephesus? What does it reveal about the hearts of many of the silversmiths and workmen in similar trades?
- [Acts 20:5-7](#) is an important example; what can we learn from it?
- Looking back over Paul's message to the elders of the church in Ephesus ([20:18-35](#)), what stands out to you? Are there lessons here that continue to be relevant, even today?
- What did a prophet named Agabus reveal in [21:10-14](#) while Paul was in Caesarea? So why would Paul continue on his way to Jerusalem?
- Did Paul actually do what some of the Jews from Asia accused him of doing in [21:27-28](#)? Some were intent on stopping Paul by any means necessary. Who does that remind you of?