

Mob Rule

The Book of Acts

Midweek Sermon

Pastor Carl Toti

August 5, 2020

Acts 19:28-29 (NLT)

28 At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" 29 Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.

Exodus 23:2 (TLB)

2 "Don't join mobs intent on evil. When on the witness stand, don't be swayed in your testimony by the mood of the majority present,

Isaiah 24:10-12 (NLT)

10 The city writhes in chaos; every home is locked to keep out intruders. 11 Mobs gather in the streets, crying out for wine. Joy has turned to gloom. Gladness has been banished from the land. 12 The city is left in ruins, its gates battered down.

2 Corinthians 6:5 (NLT)

5 We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food.

Acts 19:30-34 (NLT)

30 Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn't let him. 31 Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. 32 Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. 33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. 34 But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Acts 19:35-41 (NLT)

35 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.

MOB RULE VS TRUE JUSTICE

What Is _____?

Ancient images in Greek mythology portrayed justice as being blind or impartial, and at other times holding balance scales (a symbol of the rule of law).

God Is _____

Isaiah 61:8 (NKJV)

8 "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them an everlasting covenant.

Justice Is a Moral _____

Genesis 9:6 (NIV)

6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

Exodus 12:49 (NKJV)

49 One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

Justice Is Our _____ Before God

Amos 5:24 (NKJV)

24 But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.

ANSWERS:

- 1. JUSTICE**
- 2. JUST**
- 3. IMPERATIVE**
- 4. DUTY**