

Anatomy of Revival Part 9

34 “But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”

National pride was high at the moment and their goddess, Diana, is in question. The did not want to listen to a Jew. A mob will shout and use noise to cover the real issue. They shouted until they were tired.

35 “And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: “Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus?”

The town mayor will use the issue of the law to disperse the mob. This man is the highest in office in Ephesus. He knew Roman law very well and used it. He waited for the people to shout themselves hoarse and the chose to speak. He appealed to their ego three ways:

1. He called them noble men.
2. He reminded them of Ephesus’ worldwide reputation for the worship of Diana.
3. He told them the statue was given to them as a gift from the chief god Jupiter.

36 “Therefore, since these things cannot be denied (contradicted), you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly.”

He reminded them they were aware of the facts. If the facts he presented are true, Paul cannot change it. So, this type of action was unnecessary and below their dignity.

37 “For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess.”

The banks were in the temples (John 8:20). Paul and his team never ran down the false religion and evils of Ephesus. Paul preached Christ and the people changed their own minds about Diana. Paul and his team broke no laws. Most ministers today run-down other religions. If there was nothing to run down, they would have no message. They know nothing about the word.

38 “Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another.”

39 “But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.”

In other words, "If you have any other charges against Paul and his men, bring it before a lawful assembly. You are about to take the law into your own hands, then you will be the criminals.

40 "For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering."

"Rome will call us about this and could pull our city rights. We would have no legal leg to stand on."

41 "And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly."