

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 19 21-27



Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.
Psalm 40:4

Praising:

Jesus is worthy to receive all honour, power divine; and blessings more than we can give be, Lord, for ever thine.

Reading:

Acts 19:21-27

Demetrius rallies the god-makers of Ephesus

News of Paul's plan to travel to Jerusalem and to Rome are a prelude to events which unfold rapidly in Ephesus. Demetrius the silversmith agitates for opposition against Paul and the Christian cause. Firstly, Demetrius reminds his fellow tradesmen that their livelihood and business interests are at stake if Paul continues to draw people away from worshipping the divinities which they sculpt and sell. Secondly, he

warns that their reputation will be sullied if the spiritual tide continues to turn in Christianity's favour and they will lose their professional respectability. Thirdly, he expresses concern that the temple of Artemis itself will be denigrated and that the standing of the goddess herself will take a battering. The order in which Demetrius makes his three points is all revealing, as is his assumption that human hands can make a god.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord when what we believe is under attack

- free us from practical domestic concerns about how we are going to get by
- save us from watching our backs and anxiety about what people think of us
- help us to keep worshipping you our first priority rather than our last

Father: may I never forget how much some people have had to give up to follow Christ, and may that reminder shine a light on some of the things I still need to give up myself. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 15 June 2016