

Acts 19:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen;

Analysis

Demetrius, a silversmith—This craftsman (ἀργυροκόπος, argyrokopos, 'silver-beater') led the guild of Artemis shrine-makers. The **silver shrines for Diana** (ναοὺς ἀργυροῦς Ἀρτέμιδος) were miniature temples sold to pilgrims as devotional objects or votive offerings. Archaeological evidence confirms thriving idol-manufacturing in first-century Ephesus.

No small gain repeats Luke's litotes, ironically contrasting spiritual versus economic profit. The Greek ἐργασία (ergasia) means 'business' or 'profit'—Demetrius openly acknowledged that religious devotion served financial interests. Paul's preaching threatened not theology but profits, exposing how economic systems often sustain false religion.

Historical Context

The Artemision (Temple of Artemis) employed thousands in various capacities—priests, craftsmen, vendors. The month of Artemision was dedicated to festival celebrations drawing pilgrims from across the Mediterranean. Demetrius likely headed the silversmith guild, giving him considerable influence.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do economic interests today sometimes masquerade as religious conviction or tradition?
2. What 'profits' might you be unconsciously protecting against gospel transformation?

Interlinear Text

Δημήτριος	γάρ	τις	όνόματι	ἀργυροκόπος	ποιῶν
Demetrius	For	a certain	man named	a silversmith	which made
G1216	G1063	G5100	G3686	G695	G4160
ναοὺς	ἀργυροῦς	Ἄρτεμιδος	παρείχετο	τοῖς	τεχνίταις
shrines	silver	for Diana	brought	G3588	unto the craftsmen
G3485	G693	G735	G3930		G5079
ἐργασίαν	οὐκ	όλιγην			
gain	no	small			
G2039	G3756	G3641			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:16 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Acts 16:19 (Parallel theme): And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

