

# Acts 19:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth.

## Analysis

**By this craft we have our wealth** (εὐπορία, euporia, 'prosperity')—Demetrius' blunt admission reveals that financial security, not religious devotion, motivated opposition to Paul. He assembled **workmen of like occupation** (έργατας τῶν τοιούτων, ergatas tōn toiotōn), creating economic solidarity against Christianity's threat to their livelihood.

The craftsmen's guild system provided economic protection and social identity. Paul's message—that handmade gods are not gods (v. 26)—struck at both their theology and their income. This tension between gospel truth and economic self-interest recurs throughout church history.

## Historical Context

Roman guilds (collegia) functioned as trade unions, providing economic protection, social networking, and political influence. The silversmith guild would have been wealthy and powerful in Ephesus. Guild meetings often occurred in temples, blending commerce with religion.

## Related Passages

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. Where might your financial security tempt you to compromise gospel truth or resist God's leading?
2. How can Christians prophetically challenge economic systems built on exploitation or idolatry?

## Interlinear Text

---

οὓς συναθροίσας καὶ τοὺς περὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα  
Whom he called together and G3588 of G3588 like occupation  
G3739 G4867 G2532 G4012 G5108

έργατας εἶπεν ἄνδρες ἐπίστασθε ὅτι ἐκ ταύτης  
with the workmen said Sirs ye know that by G3778  
G2040 G2036 G435 G1987 G3754 G1537

τῆς ἐργασίας ἡ εὐπορία ἡμῶν ἐστιν  
G3588 craft G3588 wealth our we have  
G2039 G2142 G2257 G2076

## Additional Cross-References

---

**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,