

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** (ἐργάτας τῶν τοιούτων, ergatas tōn toioutōn), 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
ἐργάτας	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	ἐστίν	
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,