

# Acts 19:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre.

## Analysis

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**Certain of the chief of Asia** (Ἀσιάρχαι, Asiarchai)—provincial elites who oversaw imperial cult worship and public festivals, men of immense wealth and political influence. That these pagan officials were **his friends** (φίλοι, philoi) demonstrates Paul's relational skill in winning respect across religious boundaries without compromising gospel truth. They **sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself** (μὴ δοῦναι ἑαυτὸν, mē dounai heauton—literally 'not give himself') into the theatre.

Their concern was pragmatic: Paul's presence would escalate violence, not quell it. Even powerful Asiarchs couldn't guarantee his safety in mob chaos. This shows how effective ministry builds bridges even with those who don't share our faith—Paul's character earned respect that transcended theological disagreement.

## Historical Context

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Asiarchs were wealthy benefactors who funded gladiatorial games, theatrical productions, and religious festivals honoring Rome and local deities. Their friendship with Paul is remarkable—they profited from paganism Paul preached against, yet valued him enough to risk political capital warning him. This suggests Paul engaged respectfully with civic leaders rather than merely denouncing their idolatry.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How can you build respectful relationships with those who oppose Christian faith without compromising gospel truth?
2. What does the Asiarchs' concern for Paul teach about the power of godly character to transcend ideological boundaries?

## Interlinear Text

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τινὲς	δὲ	καὶ	τῶν	Ἀσιαρχῶν	ὄντες	αὐτὸν	φίλοι
<b>certain</b>	<b>And</b>	G2532	G3588	<b>of the chief of Asia</b>	<b>which were</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>friends</b>
G5100	G1161			G775	G5607	G846	G5384
πέμψαντες	πρὸς	αὐτὸν	παρεκάλουν	μὴ	δοῦναι	ἑαυτὸν	
<b>sent</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>desiring</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>adventure</b>	<b>himself</b>	
G3992	G4314	G846	G3870	G3361	G1325	G1438	
εἰς	τὸ	θέατρον					
<b>into</b>	G3588	<b>the theatre</b>					
G1519		G2302					

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