

# "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" NOW THAT'S CHURCH (PART 45/ Acts 19:21-20:31)

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## *I. INTRODUCTION:*

## *II. IT'S PAY-BACK TIME!!!* (Acts 19:22:21-20:3)

A. The pagan movement strikes back  
(Acts 19:21-20:1)

B. The religious system strikes back  
(Acts 20:2-3)

## *III. CONCLUSION* (What to expect)

A. Expect opposition.

B. Expect things won't be easy.

C. Expect opposition and hardship to have a derailing effect.

D. Expect to see change in the city for Christ.



## HOME FELLOWSHIP QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: What's the weirdest, riskiest or silliest thing you've ever done because you were a Christian? What do you think of it in retrospect?

1. In Acts 19 Paul faces opposition for being a Christian. What was that opposition all about? What was the underlying motive of the silversmiths in their protest of Paul? How did Demetrius and the city clerk twist the truth to attack Christianity?

2. The silversmiths were concerned about economics over the truth of the gospel. As believers we are not immune from the pull and stress of economy and its ability to rob our joy in Christ and our mission for the gospel. How has economics impacted your appreciation for and your living out of the gospel of Christ?

3. What was the price Paul and his companions faced for their Christian testimony? Have you experienced similar opposition for sake of the gospel? What does 2 Timothy 3:12 promise us?

4. Opposition is inevitable for the Christian who takes their faith seriously. What does Jesus instruct us to do in Matthew 5:10-12 when persecution comes our way? How well do you personally obey and experience this teaching of Jesus? What is the most common type of persecution that you face as a result of your Christian commitments?

5. What sort of reputation do you have outside the church, that is, Sunday mornings at church (e.g., work, school, home, neighborhood, etc.)?

6. We often have a subconscious way of dodging opposition by failing to speak up for Christ and His gospel. How can your HF pray for you to be more bold in your witness for Christ?