

**Intro:** We understand what it feels like to be swept along by a crowd, but as Christians we are called to stand against the mob.

**1. Studying the mobs in the book of Acts.**

**1a. The mob is initially moved by key instigators. Acts 19:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> For a person named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, provided a great deal of business for the craftsmen.

<sup>25</sup> When he had assembled them, as well as the workers engaged in this type of business, he said: “Men, you know that our prosperity is derived from this business.

**Acts 21:27 (HCSB)**

<sup>27</sup> As the seven days were about to end, the Jews from the province of Asia saw him in the temple complex, stirred up the whole crowd, and seized him,

**1b. The mob is usually misled by lies. Acts 21:28-29 (HCSB)**

<sup>28</sup> shouting, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this place. What’s more, he also brought Greeks into the temple and has profaned this holy place.”

<sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with him, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple complex.

**Acts 21:38 (HCSB)**

<sup>38</sup> Aren’t you the Egyptian who raised a rebellion some time ago and led 4,000 Assassins into the desert?”

**1c. The mob is motivated to passion by a threat. Acts 19:26-29 (HCSB)**

<sup>26</sup> You both see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost the whole province of Asia, this man Paul has persuaded and misled a considerable number of people by saying that gods made by hand are not gods!

<sup>27</sup> So not only do we run a risk that our business may be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be despised and her magnificence come to the verge of ruin—the very one whom the whole province of Asia and the world adore.”

<sup>28</sup> When they had heard this, they were filled with rage and began to cry out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

<sup>29</sup> So the city was filled with confusion; and they rushed all together into the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s traveling companions.

**Acts 19:34 (HCSB)** <sup>34</sup> But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a united cry went up from all of them for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

**1d. The mob is mentally confused. Acts 19:29 (HCSB)**

<sup>29</sup> So the city was filled with confusion; and they rushed all together into the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s traveling companions.

**Acts 19:32 (HCSB)**

<sup>32</sup> Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing and some another, because the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

**Acts 21:34 (HCSB)**

<sup>34</sup> Some in the mob were shouting one thing and some another. Since he was not able to get reliable information because of the uproar, he ordered him to be taken into the barracks.

**1e. The mob may act immorally without a sense of personal responsibility.**

**Acts 19:40 (HCSB)** <sup>40</sup> In fact, we run a risk of being charged with rioting for what happened today, since there is no justification that we can give as a reason for this disorderly gathering.”

**Acts 21:30-31 (HCSB)** <sup>30</sup> The whole city was stirred up, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul, dragged him out of the temple complex, and at once the gates were shut.

<sup>31</sup> As they were trying to kill him, word went up to the commander of the regiment that all Jerusalem was in chaos.

### **Acts 22:22-23 (HCSB)**

<sup>22</sup> They listened to him up to this word. Then they raised their voices, shouting, “Wipe this person off the earth—it’s a disgrace for him to live!”

<sup>23</sup> As they were yelling and flinging aside their robes and throwing dust into the air,

### **Acts 7:54-60 (HCSB)**

<sup>54</sup> When they heard these things, they were enraged in their hearts and gnashed their teeth at him.

<sup>55</sup> But Stephen, filled by the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw God’s glory, with Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said,

<sup>56</sup> “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

<sup>57</sup> Then they screamed at the top of their voices, stopped their ears, and rushed together against him.

<sup>58</sup> They threw him out of the city and began to stone him. And the witnesses laid their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> They were stoning Stephen as he called out: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

<sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin!” And saying this, he fell asleep.

## **2. Standing against the mob in the days to come.**

### **2a. Stand Faithfully when the mob is falling into apostasy.**

#### **2 Thessalonians 2:2-3 (HCSB)**

<sup>2</sup> not to be easily upset in mind or troubled, either by a spirit or by a message or by a letter as if from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has come.

<sup>3</sup> Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For [that day] will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

**2b. Stand Fast for righteousness when the mob is following sinful desires.**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup> But know this: difficult times will come in the last days.

<sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

<sup>3</sup> unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good,

<sup>4</sup> traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

<sup>5</sup> holding to the form of religion but denying its power. Avoid these people!

**Galatians 5:1 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup> Christ has liberated us into freedom. Therefore stand firm and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**3. Stand Firm for truth when the mob forsakes truth for falsehoods.**

**2 Timothy 4:3-4 (HCSB)**

<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, will accumulate teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear something new.

<sup>4</sup> They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths.

**4. Stand For Christ when the mob is flowing towards destruction.**

**Matthew 7:13-14 (HCSB)** <sup>13</sup>“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. <sup>14</sup>How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup>Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup>set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

**Invitation: A time of apostasy is coming. Take your stand today!**