

Acts 19:32

Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together.

In the world there are those who lead the crowd and those who follow the crowd. Also in this world, there are two paths that the leaders are leading the crowd to. Some leaders (Jesus, Billy Graham, Chuck Smith, etc...) will lead the crowd to Heaven, and some (Judas, Hitler, satan, etc...) will lead them straight to hell.

With that in mind, the question today is, are you a leader or a follower? It's not a trick question, and you may be surprised at the answer, which is, we are all both a Leader and a Follower, because we all have those that we follow, be it the Lord, a pastor, your boss, your parents, etc.. and we also have those that we lead as well, your family, friends, coworkers, those in your ministry, etc... The real question is, what crowd are you following, and do you know where they are heading? Also, those you are leading, where are you leading them to?

In today's verse, this was where Paul had shared the gospel and as he did, people turned from their pagan practices and turned to the Lord.

† ***Acts 19:19-20 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.***

And with the people turning from these false gods, those who made them and sold them, were in jeopardy of losing their business, because if you don't worship a false god, you won't buy a false god, which Demetrius and his fellow idol (false god) makers were discovering, and all they cared about was their pocketbook, and not the eternal lives of others.

† ***Acts 19:23-25 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.***

So this big commotion started and the entire city got together and started to go crazy, and I love what today's verse says about it; "***for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together***" These were a bunch of followers, and all they knew was that something was going on, and they wanted to either be a part of it, or just hang out in the crowd to be able to say, "*Yeah, I was there*".

When you read that, doesn't it sound vaguely familiar? Just think back a year or so ago when rioting was happening in the streets of the USA, with destruction of property and people having a free for all in the streets. I saw one video showing a mother going out into the crowd and grabbing her teenage son and slapping him and dragging him back home, because she knew what was going on was not right. And people saw that and commended her for doing it. But did they do the same thing? Did they tell their kids why the things that were going on was wrong, and explained how things should be done?

But so many in the crowd really had no idea what was going on, they just saw a bunch of people in the street going crazy, and instead of opposing them, so they wouldn't get hurt by them, they joined them, or like in today's verse ***"most of them did not know why they had come together"*** Yet so many want to follow the crowd, not really knowing where they are headed, they just want to be a part of the majority, not the minority. Jesus said:

† **Matthew 7:13-16** *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?"*

The majority are headed straight to hell in the wide path that so many want to walk on, they don't really know where it's going, they just know everyone is going there, so they don't want to be left out or thought of as "One of those". So they will follow blindly, and Jesus also said about this:

† **Luke 6:39** *And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?"*

But then there are those, who stopped and thought about who or what they were following, and decided that it was wrong. Those that I speak of are you and I, because we saw where we were headed, and that was to hell, and we decided we don't want that, and that we want to follow a real Leader, Jesus Christ; therefore, we are on that straight and narrow path, leading to life eternal.

So, just remember to be a Follower of Jesus and not the world.

† **Colossians 2:6 (NLT2)** *And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.*

And be a Leader to others, leading them to Jesus.

† **2 Timothy 1:1 (NLT2)** *This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I have been sent out to tell others about the life he has promised through faith in Christ Jesus.*