

### WoW Nation

#### **Angry Birds**

##### *Scripture:*

*At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, where they continued to preach the good news... Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. (Acts 14:1-7, 19-20 NIV)*

*About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way. A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in no little business for the craftsmen. He called them together, along with the workmen in related trades, and said: "Men, you know we receive a good income from this business. And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all. There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited, and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty." When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater. Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him. Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater. The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there. (Acts 19:23-32 NIV)*

Angry Birds is an insanely popular gaming application (app) developed for Apple's iPhone. Since its release in December 2009, the app has been downloaded by users more than 12 million times. Because

## Women of Worth | Word for the Week

---

of its immense success, Rovio Entertainment, the game studio behind Angry Birds, has released versions of the app for other platforms including personal computers, tablets, social media sites, video game consoles and smart phones using the Android operating system. Across all platforms, the total number of downloads has reached a staggering 700 million (and counting) making Angry Birds one of the most successful games or apps to date. Additionally, the Angry Birds craze has spawned a line of plushie toys; and reports indicate that there may be an Angry Birds movie in the works soon.

In Angry Birds, players use a slingshot to launch wingless birds at pigs situated on or within structures. The object of the game is to destroy all of the pigs on the playing surface. While the aim of the game is pretty straight-forward, the premise behind it is the subject of some speculation. One of the more colorful memes (concepts or ideas) floating around the internet contends that the birds are angry because they can't fly. Another contends that they're angry because the pigs are smug. Meanwhile, another contends that they're angry because the pigs ate their eggs and forced them into extinction. Either way, the birds are fighting mad and extremely popular.

Like angry birds, the people in both sets of scriptures were fighting mad. In the passage from Acts 14, the Jews who refused to believe the gospel followed Paul from one town to another railing against him, his ministry and the message of the gospel. And they stirred up the crowd at Lystra to the point that the angry mob stoned the apostle Paul and left him for dead outside the city. Equally disturbing was the passage from Acts 19. At Ephesus, the silversmith and craftsmen, fearful of the impact that Paul's ministry would have on their earning potential, they incited a riot in the city. The scene was so spontaneous and chaotic that some people didn't even know why they were in an uproar. They simply followed the angry mob protesting against Paul and his companions.

As these scriptures prove, success breeds contempt. Whether it comes in the form of a good education, a great job, a nice home, a loving husband, a wonderful family or a thriving ministry, success of any kind is sure to breed contempt from one person or another. It's a fact of life. Instigators and agitators like those who pursued Paul have long existed. And their primary goal is to stir up strife and sow seeds of discord pretty much where ever they go. Their purpose, for lack of a better word, is to seek and destroy everything and everyone that they either loathe or oppose. And they'll stop at nothing to achieve their goal.

If you're dealing with "angry birds", *rejoice*. Instigators and agitators usually only show up when things are going well for you. So the fact that they're on the scene conjuring up trouble is proof positive that you're doing something right. For your part, try to zero in on the thing that they loathe or oppose. *When you find out what they hate, you'll find out what makes you great.* It's true. More often than not, the thing that others hate is the thing that God loves. It's the thing that makes you great. That said,

## Women of Worth | Word for the Week

---

don't let angry birds stop your forward progress. Like Paul, press onward and upward come what may. Remember, when confronted with instigators and agitators, make those haters your motivators.

Be blessed.

Elle Bailey