UNDERSTANDING CROWD DYNAMICS.

(Slide #2) Introduction:
A. How Do You React To Being In Crowds?
   1. (Slide #3) Riot?
   2. (Slide #4) Funeral?
   3. (Slide #5) Ballgame?
   4. (Slide #6) Worship Service?

B. Greek Word “Oclos”
   1. “o[clo~”
   2. It is translated into English as “multitude” or “crowd.”

C. Greek Word “Ekklasia”
   1. “ejkklhsiva”
   2. From “ejk kalevw”
   3. “The called out”
      a. This word does not inherently tell you the purpose of the assembly or meeting.
      b. Crowd:
         1. Any time people are called out of their house for a purpose or when sinners are called to leave the world and to follow Christ.
         2. Ac. 19:32-41
            a. 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.”
            b. 41 -- “And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.”
            c. Let it be determined in a lawful assembly, 39 -- “But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly.”
      c. Church:
         1. Mt. 16:18 “I will build my church.”
         2. Saul brought persecution against the church. Ac. 8:1,3
         3. Church at Jerusalem, Ac. 11:22; Church at Antioch, Ac. 11:26, 13:1
D. **Interesting Facts About Crowds.**

1. **Crowds Can Be A Hindrance.**
   
a. Zacchaeus Lk. 19:3,4 “And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.”

b. Mary and the brothers of Jesus came to see Him but could not get close to Him because of the crowd. Lk. 8:19 “Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd.”

c. The 4 friends who wanted to get their paralyzed friend to Jesus! Lk. 5:18,19 “Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.”

2. **You Can HIDE In A Crowd!**
   
a. The woman with the issue of blood.
   
b. Mk. 5:27-34 “When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, ‘If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.’ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched My clothes?’ But His disciples said to Him, ‘You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’’ And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.’”

E. (Slide #7) Today, Understanding Crowd Dynamics.

I. (Slide #8) **Dynamics Of A Crowd!**

A. (►) **Calm Crowds Can Become Out Of Control!**
   
1. Many of us have been to ballgames where there have been tens of thousands of people.

2. (Slide #9) Soccer stadium incident in Liverpool, England in 1989. 96 fans died.
3. **(Slide #10)** Vancouver Canucks fans after they were beaten for the Stanley Cup by the Boston Bruins in 2011. Fans wrought havoc on Vancouver. They turned over cars, lit fires, threw garbage at police, smashed glass storefronts, and looted businesses.

4. The government in Egypt sentenced 21 soccer fans to death after they incited a stadium riot that killed 74 people and injured 1,000. Many died from trampling and from falling from stadium balconies. The verdict sparked another riot that left 30 dead and over 400 injured.

5. Herd mentality; drunk, guys at Detroit Tiger’s Stadium in 1980’s dropping pants and mooning the crowd; the crowd egged it on!

**B. (Slide #11) Dynamics Of A Mob!**

1. *(►)* Mob at Ephesus. Text: Ac. 19: 23-41 “And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. 24For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: ‘Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.’ 28Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, ‘Great is Diana of the Ephesians!’ 29So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions. 30And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. 31Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. 32Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. 34But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, ‘Great is Diana of the Ephesians!’ 35And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: ‘Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? 36Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. 37For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. 38Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be
determined in the lawful assembly.  "For we are in danger of being called in question for today’s uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.”

a. Paul taught Jesus.

b. His teaching had SERIOUS spiritual and financial impact upon the citizens of Ephesus.

c. This passage teaches us SO MUCH about Mob Dynamics:

1. There has to be something or someone that riles people’s angry emotions -- the Ephesians hated Christianity, “the Way!” Many people have to get riled; one angry person will not cause a mob; crown dynamic is like an animal, one dog may bark at you but sneak around and slither away; it’s more likely that a pack of dogs will attack you. I saw a pack of hyenas in the Serengeti in Africa attack and devour a zebra.

2. A negative impact upon people’s “quality of life” or finances (pocketbook) will get them riled quickly.

3. A dynamic instigator will inflame people’s emotions! Demetrius, a silversmith who was losing money became the mastermind.

4. There must be a villain! Paul and Christianity were the focus of the rage!

5. Religious undertones and zealotry escalate rage! Paul is opposing our goddess, Diana (Artemis)!

6. Mobs are characterized by rage, confusion, irrationality. The Ephesians ran through the city wanting to find someone to assault; many did not even understand what the cause of the rage was.

7. Mobs have no interest in logic or reason! The rage becomes irrational and hypnotic. The Ephesians shouted down Alexander, a Jew by screaming for about two hours, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!”

8. One with common sense reasoning and logic can calm a frenzied mob. They have to feel that their concern will be addressed. The town clerk did that at Ephesus.

d. Paul faced the same crowd dynamics in:

1. Thessalonica. Ac. 17:8 “And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.”

2. Lystra. “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.” Ac. 14:19

2. (►) The Enraged Crowds Who Wanted Jesus Dead.

a. For three years the Jewish religious establishment had sought to kill Jesus.

b. When one of His own, Judas, sold out the Lord for 30 pieces of silver, they found their opportunity to arrest, judge, and kill Him! Mt. 26:48, 55, 57
c. They could not find legal accusations; they sought witnesses and many false witnesses came forward; finally two men accused Him of declaring that He would destroy the Temple. Mt. 26:50-61
d. After mockeries of trials before Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, back to Herod, and then back to Pilate who KNEW that Jesus was innocent. However, because of the political pressure from the Jewish leaders, he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified! Jn. 18:13,14; 18:24; 18:28,29 and Mt. 27:2; Lk. 23:7; Lk. 23:11

1. Mt. 27:20 “But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.”
2. Lk. 23:21 “But they shouted, saying, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him!’”
3. Lk. 23:22,23 “Then he said to them the third time, ‘Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.’ But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.”
4. When Pilate argued for Jesus’ innocence, all the people cried out from their deprave and hate-filled hearts, “His blood be on us and on our children.”

3. (►) Crowds That Promote Civil Unrest.
   a. Herod feared the Jews. Herod was afraid of the multitude when he wanted to kill John the Baptist. Mt. 14:5 “And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.”
   b. Pilate decreed that Jesus would be crucified because he feared the people.
   c. Some riot because they feel disenfranchised by the government or police.
   d. There are race baiters who arouse citizens, especially young people, into frenzied totally out-of-control, rabid destroyers.
   e. (Slide #12) Ferguson, MO (Slide #13)
   f. (Slide #14) Charlotte, NC
   g. (Slide #15) Crowds in New York when a Kayne West concert in the park was canceled.
   h. This week’s plague of young people using Snap Chat and causing riots at shopping malls!

4. Christians in congregations can become divisive and their attitudes and actions can lead to people doing and acting in ways they never dreamed!
   a. Some brethren become involved in promoting division.
   b. They usually work in subterfuge, underhandedly.
   c. They work to get people on their side.
   d. They try to promote an idea, oppose a leadership decision, take a congregation a different way, or oust leadership.
   e. They can cause GREAT confusion and division in congregations, sometimes splitting them wide open.
5. **Cautions To Christians From The Above Crowd Dynamics:**
   a. Religious zealotry can be some of the most violent and unruly!
      1. **(Slide #16)** Salem Witch Trials -- in Massachusetts between February 1692 and May 1693. Twenty people were executed (14 women; all but one by hanging; 5 others including 2 infants died in prison!
      2. **(Slide #17)** Pakistani Moslems protest non-Moslems.
   b. Evil companions will get you in BIG trouble! I Cor. 15:33
      1. “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”
      2. KJV “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”
      3. ESV “Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”
      4. NIV “Do not be misled: ”Bad company corrupts good character.”
      5. Song: “O Be Careful!” (Eyes, Ears, Mouth, Hands, Feet!)
   c. Christians are to obey civil government. Rom. 13:1-7
   d. NEVER allow irrational, hate-filled, out-of-control people to lead you into civil unrest, rebellion, and riot!
   e. Always THINK; be sober; NEVER be out-of-control like one on alcohol or drugs!
   f. Whatever you do, GLOLRIFY the GODHEAD!

II. **(Slide #18) Multitudes And Crowds Can Have Holy Purposes!**
   A. **(Slide #19)** There Are Many Humanitarian Crowds!

   B. **(Slide #20)** Examples Of HOLY Multitudes:
      1. Mt. 13:2 “And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.”
      2. Mt. 13:34 “All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them.”
      3. Multitudes sought Jesus! Mt. 4:23-25 “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. Great multitudes followed Him--from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.”
      4. He taught multitudes in the “Sermon On The Mount!” Mt. 5:1,2 “And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:”
5. As Jesus taught in the Temple,
a. People were interested in Him and His teaching.
b. John 7:
   1. 32 "The Pharisees heard the crowd murmuring these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him."
   2. 40 "Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, ‘Truly this is the Prophet.’"
   3. 49 The Jewish leaders’ response: “But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”
6. Multitudes were present on the Day of Pentecost! 3,000 were baptized into Christ.
7. Ac. 5:14 “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,”

1. Some people have uneasiness, some have phobias about crowds; yet, God commands Christians to worship together!
2. Leaders in worship services NEED to understand “Crowd Dynamics” -- especially “Congregational Dynamics!”
a. Every congregation has a Psyche! (Some are very emotional; some are very “laid back.”
   1. This is seen in sports arenas too.
   2. College basketball has intense enthusiasm -- North Carolina, Duke, Connecticut, Syracuse; in our area -- IU, Butler, UK.
   3. Some pro teams have a quiet, laid-back psyche -- L.A. Lakers
   4. UE -- at Roberts Stadium -- raucous; at Ford Center -- quiet, reserved, not involved. (Why dynamic changed? 1 -- rule that removed all noise makers from Roberts stadium; 2 -- different arena configuration.)
   5. Whatever the psyche, leaders need to lead in a way that makes worship extremely meaningful!
   b. God expects worship to be from our hearts! Jn. 4:24 “in spirit.”
      1. Christians are to take the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner. I Cor. 11:27,28
      2. Christians are to give cheerfully, as we have purposed or planned in our hearts. II Cor. 9:7
      3. Christians are to pray fervently and effectually. Js. 5:16
      4. Christians are to speak the Truth in love! Eph. 4:15
      5. Christians are to sing with the spirit and with the understanding. I Cor. 14:15
c. (Slide #22) **Preachers and Bible Class Teachers** must present the Word with conviction, fervency, and application!

1. Jesus did that! Mt. 7:28,29 “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”

2. Ezra -- “So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.” Neh. 8:8

3. Important traits:
   a. “Preach the Word!” II Tim. 4:2
   b. Preach it with passion; preach it like you believe It!

4. Don’t preach or teach just a bunch of facts; preach the facts; help people see the importance of the Message; challenge them to LIVE It!

5. Using a monotone voice detracts from the Message; it does not promote emotional participation or understanding!

d. **Scripture Readers:**

1. Review the Scripture numerous times.

2. Get the sense of its meaning.

3. Read it with clarity, volume, and meaning!

e. (Slide #23) **Song Leaders:**

1. Song leaders MUST understand how VITAL they are to a worship service!

2. You are helping people worship “in spirit and in truth!” Jn. 4:24
   a. It must be done right!
   b. And for it to have REAL meaning personally, it must be done “in spirit.” (from our hearts; with emotion; with great meaning)

3. Singing is a powerful means of stirring the emotions of men and magnifying God.
   a. You can enhance EVERYTHING about a worship service.
   b. You can totally destroy the mood of the worship service!

4. Traits the leader must have in themselves:
   a. Eagerness to glorify God in worship!
   b. Confidence
   c. Preparedness
   d. Willingness to project their voice

5. Traits to help the worship service be the best for the worshipers:
   a. Songs MUST BE PITCHED RIGHT!
      1. This is a BIG deal.
      2. Songs too low end up being too slow; they lose their tempo,
   b. Tempo is vital -- joyous songs need to be sung with exciting tempo; songs of challenge need to be sung with vigor -- “To The Work!” or “Stand Up For Jesus!”; songs about death need to be sung with slower tempo.
c. Communicate the beat -- it helps the worshipers stay together and know when to come in on their parts.

(Slide #24) Invitation:
A. Christians Protect Yourself!

B. (►) People Who Have Been Caught Up In Crowd Dynamics Of Sin, CAN REPENT And Be Forgiven.
   1. After Jesus was murdered, the crowd was deeply touched! Lk. 23:48 “And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.”

   2. Pilate to the enraged mob -- “So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, ‘I find no fault in this Man.’” Lk. 23:4

   3. People on Pentecost: “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Ac. 2:37

C. (►) They Came To Faith In Christ, Repented, Were Baptized, And We Added To The Church -- The Great Crowd Of Believers Who Are Headed To Heaven To Be In The Heavenly Multitude Where They Will Praise God Forever And NEVER Be Around Any Sinful Motive Forever!
   1. Rev. 7:9 “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,”

   2. Rev. 19:1 “After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!”