



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, May 2, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“The Ways for the Increase of the Word of God”

Acts 12:1-24

1. The pain of persecution (Acts 12:1-4)

2. The power of prayer (Acts 12:5-19)

3. The penalty of pride (Acts 12:20-24)

Table Talk

- 1) Who is this “Herod the king”? What did he do? (vv. 1-2) How do we know that he was mindful of public approval? (v. 3 compared with vv. 22-23) What is the painful loss that the first church experiences? (v. 2) Why is it important for us to know that, despite the miracles that happened in the first church, the church was not immune to pain and loss? Is God less God in loss? Is God more powerful in miraculous deliverance? What should we learn about the pain of persecution in this account? (vv. 1-4)
- 2) What happened to Peter as a result of James’ death? (vv. 3-5) What “just so happened” event came about in verses 6-7? How does Peter react to this angel? (vv. 7-11) Why would he be a bit confused?
- 3) Where did Peter go after the angel disappeared? What were people doing? What positive practices of prayer are seen here (vv. 5, 12)? What is less flattering about the church’s prayer life? (v. 15) What should we learn about the power of prayer from this account? (vv. 5-19)
- 4) What does Herod do after he arrives at Caesarea? (vv. 20-21) Why do politicians like to give speeches? What was the crowd’s reaction to Herod’s speech? Why do you think that God killed Herod? What are ways that you give God glory? What might be ways that we are failing to give God glory? (vv 22-23)
- 5) In contrast to Herod’s end, what is true of the word of God? (v.24) What should we learn about the penalty of pride in this account? (vv. 20-24)