



Acts 12

Miraculous Escape

Key People

- Herod Family (in part)
 1. *Herod the Great: responsible for killing babies around Jesus' birth*
 2. *Herod Antipas: son of Herod the Great. Killed John the Baptist*
 3. **(12:1) Herod Agrippa I: grandson of Herod the Great & nephew of Herod Antipas, killed James, brother of John**
 4. *Herod Agrippa II: Trial of Paul in Caesarea*
- James (2) (*brother of John & son of Zebedee – “sons of thunder”*)
- Peter (3)
- Angel (7) [*Acts = 23x's; Luke = 25 x's; NT = 184 x's*]
- Mary & John Mark (12)
- Rhoda (13)
- James (17) (*Disciple – son of Alphaeus OR Jesus' brother?*)

Acts 12: An Elephant Sandwich

- The sandwich:
 - Begins - “Herod cruelly attacked the church” (1)
 - Ends - “God’s message flourished and multiplied” (24)
- “The elephant in the room”
 - *Why did God allow James to be killed but miraculously rescued Peter?*

Peter

- ❖ Three key leaders – Peter, James & John (Jesus' inner circle)
- ❖ Now James is dead, Peter waiting to be executed
- ❖ Peter in prison for the 2nd time (Acts 5)
 - # Herod: Sets 16 soldiers to guard Peter (12:4)
 - # Church: Praying for him (12:12)
- ❖ Peter sleeps (6) (see 1 Peter 5:7)
- ❖ Outcome: Peter released in a miraculous fashion

Herod

- Attitude to the church (1): *persecute (NIV); laid violent hands (ESV) harass (NKJV) attacked (HCSB) caused terrible suffering (CEV)*
- Action towards James: *killed him (2)*
- Action towards Peter: *arrested, jailed, planned to kill him (3-4)*
- Action towards 16 soldiers: *killed them all (19)*
- Attitude towards himself: *celebration & elevation of self resulting in God's judgement (19-23)*

Discipleship Lessons

1. God is God and I am not
2. His ways are not my ways (Deut 29:29; Roms 11:33)
3. There are many things I/we don't understand
4. Prayer is important, but it is not the quality nor quantity of prayer that is important but rather to Whom we pray
5. Suffering goes with the journey with Jesus
6. Miracles do occur – God is not limited
7. Do your best; be your best; allow God to do the rest
8. Always give God the glory (Is 42:8)
9. God always wins out in the end

