

a lesson (Acts 12:19-24)? If so, what is it?

Sermon Notes

"When a Sovereign God Responds to a Praying Church"

Acts 12

February 10, 2019

b. In what ways do pride and position affect the way we treat others?

c. Why couldn't persecution prevent the gospel from spreading (12:1, 24)?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Tim and Sherry Thomas, AWANA

Pray as Tim and Sherry presently oversee 126 AWANA clubs in Wisconsin with 7 of those new this year.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 02-10-19

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, *Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 41-43; James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 203-204; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., *Acts: Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 113-115.

Getting Started:

1. How do you tend to react in trying circumstances?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Acts 12:1-5.

a. Why was King Herod so cold-hearted toward the church (12:1-3)?

b. Consider a time when you have acted wrongly for the sake of pleasing someone. What were the consequences of your actions?

3. Read Acts 12:6-11.

a. Have you seen God respond to a group of people who were earnestly praying? If so, describe the situation.

b. God saved Peter from being executed by Herod (12:6-11), but He allowed James to die (12:2). What conclusions about persecution, prayer, and deliverance can we draw from these facts?

c. The earnest prayer of the church significantly affected the outcome of events in this chapter. How would you describe your present motivation to pray (i.e., strong, moderate, lacking)? What would help increase that motivation?

4. Read Acts 12:12-19.

a. What happened when Peter appeared at Mary's door (12:13-16)?

b. Recall a time when God answered one of your prayers. Describe the joy of receiving his gracious blessing upon you.

5. Read Acts 12:20-24.

a. Do you think Herod's death and its aftermath teaches