

Acts 12

Peter &
Herod



Acts 12 – 10 words or less

Herod arrests Peter

The church prays

Peter released

Herod dies

“James” who?

If James was killed by Herod - v. 2

Then, who is the “James” in v. 17?

– Generally considered to be James, the brother of Jesus.

*Acts 1:13; 15:13; 21:17-18; Galatians 2:9;
1 Corinthians 15:6; Mark 6:3 & 17;
Epistle of James*

John... who was also called Mark

John Mark – son of Mary (v. 12)

Author: the Gospel of Mark (earliest)

*He and Paul had a falling-out but
were later reconciled.*

Acts 13:5 & 13; 15:36-40;

Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11

Barnabas in Acts

Meaning: Son of Encouragement

- He accompanies Saul to Jerusalem with the donations for the church there*
- He returns bringing John Mark along with them.*

Barnabas and Saul – v. 25

Returned "from Jerusalem" to where?

Having fulfilled what mission?

Why did they not just stay in Jerusalem?

In v. 17, Peter “left and went to another place.” He will return briefly in chapter 15 when he speaks to the Jerusalem Council. After Acts 12, Luke’s focus will be entirely on Paul. Why do you think this is?

Because the outreach of the church expands to “the uttermost parts of the earth.”

Peter is Imprisoned

Why?

Herod saw that it pleased “the Jews” when he put James to death.

How securely was he held?

Guarded by 4-squads of soldiers in prison.

Why did Herod not kill him also?

He wanted to bring him out before the people after the Passover feast.

Meanwhile... the Church is...?

Praying – “fervently” together

GRK: Ektenos Lit.: “to stretch out”

= not relaxing in effort.

Was this the whole church?

What was the result?

Peter is Freed from Prison

What was the result?

- Peter was given specific, detailed instruction by “an angel of the Lord,”*
- who then released his chains, led him past his guards and out of the prison.*
- Peter thought he was seeing a vision until he was outside the prison gates.*
- He then went to the house of Mary where the church was praying.*

Peter – At Mary's House

Why did Rhoda not open the gate to let Peter in?

Why do you think the church members did not believe her when she reported that Peter was at the gate?

Consider: Acts 5:17-21

Acts 5:18-21

“They (the High Priest & Sadducees) laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. 19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, 20 “Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life.” 21 Upon hearing this, they entered into the temple about daybreak and began to teach.”

Praying: Singular or Plural?

What is the benefit of praying “together” with other believers?

Matthew 18:19-20 – “...I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered in My name, I am there in their midst.”

Praying: Singular or Plural?

What is the benefit of praying “together” with other believers?

James 5:16-18 – “...pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

Praying: Singular or Plural?

ASK: Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; Luke 11:9-10; John 14:13-14; 15:7 & 16; 16:23-24; Ephesians 3:20; 1 John 5:14-15

PRAY: Matthew 6:5-9; Mark 11:24-25; Luke 6:28; 11:2; Ephesians 6:18

Any Personal Insights or Applications Regarding Prayer?

Peter – At Mary's House

- *What were they to report?*
- *To whom?*
- *Why was this important?*

King Herod and the Church

This is Herod Agrippa I. Grandson of Herod the Great. He eventually ruled over all the kingdom of Herod the Great.

His son, Agrippa II is in Acts 25:13.

Herod had Peter imprisoned to gain favor with the Jews.

When Peter went missing, did it trouble Herod? For how long?

King Herod troubled by Peter's Escape?

- *No, he was not. He blamed the guards and went to his resort by the sea.*
- *His Character?*
 - *He was insecure and threatened – made decisions based on a poll (v. 3).*
 - *He was a politician – self-serving – dictatorial – tyrannical – power-hungry – hedonistic.*

Why did King Herod Die? ~ vs. 21-23

- *He died 5-days later!*
- *Compare with Acts 10:24-25.*
 - > *Peter refused to be worshiped by Cornelius.*

Contrast: Acts 12:23 and 24?

23 ...an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

24 But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

The church's role/responsibility in governmental or secular affairs?

One Truth or Application from Acts?

- *Witnessing*
- *The Holy Spirit*
- *The Church*
- *Salvation*
- *Baptism*

