



Take Time to Pray

By Terry Kountz on February 21, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 12

"But the word of God increased and multiplied" (Acts 12:24).

At the beginning of Acts 12, Herod seems to be in control and the church is losing the battle. Herod has James, John's brother, killed. When he noticed it pleased the people he had Peter arrested. A key point is that Herod enjoyed the praise. He wanted more of it and was willing to do anything for the applause.

The church, on the other hand, turned to God when they learned of Peter's imprisonment. They offered earnest prayers to God for him. The next thing we know, Peter escapes prison with the help of an angel.

This is a favorite story in kids ministry. It has drama, a miraculous escape and humor--Rhoda is so excited when Peter shows up at the gate of Mary's house, she leaves him there to go tell the others. I can see Peter standing there knocking away as she left, and finally they come and let him in.

Then we get to the end of the chapter. Herod is struck down by an angel after the people said he was a god. He was struck down because he did not honor God. He was completely all about himself.

Through all the persecution, the Word of God increased and multiplied. This is the power of prayer--earnest prayer. Prayer moves the focus off ourselves and onto God. This helps us to not be filled with pride and selfishness like Herod was. It also focuses us on the mission at hand--to share about Jesus.

What are you praying earnestly for today?

PRAYER: God, help me create routines in order to be consistent in my prayer time. Help me earnestly seek You as I pray.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 13

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