

Bible Summary- Acts 12

Who is the King?

The Bible is a unified book that is supposed to shape the minds and world view of believers. We are called to meditate on it day and night. When we follow this command, we begin to see how the world actually works. Acts 12 gives us a story of a bad king who kills the Apostle James. In this story, we see The Story being replayed. The setting is Passover with a tyrant who attacks God's people with violence, murder and captivity. An angel intervenes and sets God's people free and Herod, in the end, dies. Three themes emerge in the narrative that are to shape the worldview of Jesus' followers. First, there is real battle against evil and there will be casualties like James. Second, God will bring about justice in His time. Third, we have hope because a rescue mission was launched 2000 years ago and the real King will return to renew all things.

Scriptures: Acts 12:1-24; Exodus 20:13; Jeremiah 32:35; Romans 8:32; 2 Peter 3:8; Matthew 5:43-44; Romans 12:19-21

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. Describe a time in your life when you felt like you were living under the thumb of a Herod (i.e., a boss, a neighbor, a spouse). How did you deal with it?
3. When God, as the "5 star general", doesn't do what you pray for Him to do, how do you resolve the conflict?
4. Early in the message it was said that if we soak in scripture it will eventually shape our world view.
 - a. How do you allow scripture to "soak in"?
 - b. What scriptures are you "soaking in" right now?
5. Why is God's long suffering so difficult to understand or appreciate?
6. If moral, natural, and spiritual evil is not God's will, then what is God's will?
 - a. Why do we have a tendency so often to blame evil on God and not other sources?