



GOD'S INEVITABLE WORD - ACTS 12:18-25

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

It is really easy to look around at what goes on in the news, politics and around the world and assume that the church will simply be swallowed up in what is all going on. How could we have any impact? Yet the situation in Acts is very much the same. The church was tiny in comparison with everything that was going on in the Roman empire, yet what we see is that despite everything that opposed them, the Word of God continued to increase. We see that even though Herod seemingly sat on the throne and couldn't be moved, that God was still in control and he could remove him at any point. God's word is not hindered nor held back by any political power or threat. And this should give us such confidence to continue to share the gospel as God is still on his throne and he gives us the Holy Spirit to continue to share his good news!

KEY TEXT: ACTS 12:18-25

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. ¹⁹ And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on



the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them.

²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!"

²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Additional Texts: *1 Timothy 1:13-15, Galatians 2:12-13, Ephesians 2:10, 2 Peter 1:3; 5:5-6, Romans 12:19-21*

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Why does Luke include this story of Herod? Why does he include it directly after the incident with Peter? What larger goal is Luke trying to show his readers?
2. Where else in the Bible do we see a King who thought of himself as a god get humbled by God? (ex. Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, etc) What does this tell us about the kingship of Jesus?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. One of the pitfalls of a crooked heart is placing ourselves in God's seat and taking glory that rightfully belongs to him. In what areas are you tempted to be like Herod and take glory rightfully reserved for God? How might we train ourselves to be people who use our gifts to bring God glory?
4. In what ways have you been comforted by the word of God? In what way have you been able to comfort those around you with it?

PRAYING & ACTING

1. Share with your group the name(s) of one or two people that you would like the opportunity to share the gospel with in your life. Pray that God would give you opportunities to share and hold one another accountable to be reaching out.



2. How can your Life Group reach out to your community this week?
Who can you invite to join your group?

