

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 12:1-25 - God's Sovereignty Over All - 01.26.2025

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you ever seen God work through what seemed like an awful a situation at the time?
How did you respond to the situation at first (or as it developed into what would become an awful experience)?
At the beginning of this situation, did this circumstance have any impact on how you prayed/interacted with the Lord?
How did you see the Lord work your awful situation and does His work in that impact how you view awful situations today?
What did you learn about the Lord (& even about yourself) through that situation?
3. Why does the reality of God's sovereignty help us to have a right perspective regardless of our circumstances in this life?
As you read Acts 12, where is the sovereignty of God evident as it pertains to the outcomes for the individuals in the narrative?
How does this help us as we consider the death of an apostle at the hand of a king who's unjustly having him killed?
How does God respond to His people as they pray earnestly for Peter after his arrest (and after James was martyred)?
What does the response of the church upon Peter's arrival reveal about their expectations of the outcome for Peter?
How should we, as followers of Jesus, pray when we look at a situation like Peter's for a brother or sister in Christ in our lives?
How does the prayer of Jesus in Matthew 26:39 give us a framework for how we ought to pray in the face of hardship?
How do Jesus; words encourage us to pray fervently while maintaining a disposition of submission/trust in God?
4. Read Acts 12:24 - what does this reveal about what continues to happen within the Church in the face of adversity/persecution?
Where else do we see this in Scripture (up to this point in the book of Acts), and how does this reveal God's sovereignty?
How should we, as the Church, respond in light of this, and how can we have peace like Peter if faced with it ourselves?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
God is sovereign over everything in all of creation!
All authority in heaven & earth belongs to Jesus!
Every power & leader in this life is subject to God!
The just & unjust will give account for all they do!
Peter has the peace of Jesus even facing death!
As we remain hopeful in Jesus, His peace is ours!
God hears & responds to His people's prayers!
Pray fervently & entrust the outcome to the Lord!
God's Word multiplies even through persecution!
What Satan intends for evil God uses for good!