

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series*

Acts of the Apostles

### **"The True King's Plan Prevails"**

Acts 12:13-25

#### **Ernest Prayer Answered with Little Faith**

<sup>13</sup> And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter's voice, because of *her* gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. <sup>15</sup> But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." <sup>16</sup> Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened *the door* and saw him, they were astonished. <sup>17</sup> But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place. <sup>18</sup> Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. <sup>19</sup> But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed *there*.

#### **God's Judgement on Herod**

<sup>20</sup> Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's *country*. <sup>21</sup> So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" <sup>23</sup> Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. <sup>24</sup> But the word of God grew and multiplied.

#### **Mission Accomplished**

<sup>25</sup> And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled *their* ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. When Peter knocked at the door, how did Rhoda's reaction differ from the others at Mary's home?
2. How can doubt affect prayers?
3. Have you ever prayed for something, and you were very surprised of how God answered your prayer, even better than you expected?
4. In Chapter 12, discuss how Herod tried to prevent Christians from succeeding in their mission for God, and then talk about how God's plan prevailed?
5. How does God's sovereignty affect your prayers?
6. How did the people of Tyre and Sidon try to make peace with Herod? Do you think their friendship with Blastus was genuine or did they have an ulterior motive?
7. People put their hope in persons of affluence, influence, or abilities. What does the Bible teach us of whom we should place our hope and why?