

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 12:8-25 | LESSON SUMMARY

House of Prayer

ACTS 12:12, "When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying." (ESV)

- It is worth noting that this is likely the same house where the Last Supper took place, as well as Pentecost.
 - "...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:7, ESV)
 - Quoted by Jesus: Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, Luke 19:46
- Rhoda (servant girl) so shocked she leaves Peter standing at the gate
 - Sometimes unless we pray expectantly, we don't recognize the very thing we prayed for was answered
 - Prophet Anna in Luke 2:38

ACTS 12:17, "But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place." (ESV)

- Peter has come straight from prison
 - He encourages the faithful
 - Then leaves, likely to recover his strength



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Herod's Rage

ACTS 12:19, "And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death." (ESV)

- Herod looks foolish
 - As a politician, he knows he must save face
 - He's been arguing with the people of Tyre and Sidon, but since they rely on him for their food supply, they've come to grovel

ACTS 12:22, "And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" (ESV)

- Josephus gives us a descriptive account of the events that transpire surrounding Herod's oration
 - Early morning sun makes his elaborate, silver garment gleam
 - "Brilliant glare" causes "flatterers" to cry out that he's a god
 - Herod does not correct them, and thus, invokes God's wrath
- Josephus tells us that a tremendous abdominal pain afflicts Herod for five days until finally he dies
 - Luke records that "he was eaten by worms" (12:23)



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ACTS 12:25, "And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark." (ESV)

- James is not replaced
- Judas betrayed Christ, and his place among the twelve was replaced
 - Judas was replaced by Matthias (Acts 1:26, ESV)
 - James, however, fulfilled the ultimate call and gave his life for his Savior. His place among the twelve was not replaced

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: R. Kent Hughes, Acts: The Church Afire, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

