

March 18/19, 2006

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
Herod versus Jesus
Acts 12:1-25
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Does God always answer our prayers?
2. In prayer, how do you balance the importance of praying with confidence and the reality that God's ways are not always our ways and our desires are not always His desires?
3. Do you really believe prayer moves the hand of God? Is your belief evidenced by the amount of time you spend in prayer?
4. Can anyone ultimately stop the Church of Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Read Acts 12:1-25. Compare Mark 10:35-40. What did Jesus tell James?
Why did God allow James to be martyred and deliver Peter?
2. Why do you suppose the church was praying so fervently for Peter (Acts 12:5)?
When do you find yourself most motivated to pray? Why is that?
3. God could have delivered Peter any way He wanted, including avoiding the arrest in the first place. Why do you suppose God allowed Peter to be arrested and delivered him in this way?
What do we learn from this?
4. How does the church respond to news that Peter has been delivered?
Do you think these people really believed God could deliver Peter? Why or why not?
5. Do you ever find yourself reluctant to believe that God has miraculously answered your fervent prayer? Why is that?
6. Why did God strike Herod dead?
7. Summarize this text using verses 23 and 24.

Application

1. List three practical lessons on prayer that you learned from this text.
2. What does it mean to trust God by faith given the fact that James was executed and Peter was delivered?
3. How should we respond to those who are trying to stop the Church of Jesus Christ?