

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 12

November 15, 2026

SUNDAY REFRESHER

James is killed. Peter is rescued. Herod takes the stage, accepts the glory, and falls. Acts 12 holds the miraculous and the heartbreaking in the same chapter without answering every question those moments raise. Why does one person experience rescue while another suffers? We ask those questions too. But in the middle of everything we cannot explain, Luke gives us something we can hold on to: "But the word of God increased and multiplied" (Acts 12:24). The circumstances were painful. God was still at work.

Pastor Chadwick reminds us that following Jesus means participating in his kingdom right now. Jesus is King, and his resurrection has begun something that will be fully realized when he returns. That gives weight to ordinary moments. Loving someone who is difficult to love. Providing for your family. Sitting with someone who is hurting. Sharing the hope of Jesus. These things matter because they reflect the heart of our King. We may not see everything God is accomplishing, but we can trust that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. The story continues through people willing to follow him today.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*



QUESTIONS

- *Acts 12 puts James's death and Peter's rescue side by side. When have you struggled to understand why God seemed to intervene in one situation but not another? How has that affected your trust in him?*

- *If Jesus is King over your life right now, what does that change about the way you approach your work, relationships, time, or money? Where do your priorities need to come under his leadership?*

- *First Corinthians 15:58 reminds us that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. Where are you growing tired of doing good, or hesitating to do something Jesus has put in front of you? What would faithfulness look like this week?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

1 Corinthians 15:58 | Revelation 21:1–4 | Romans 11:33–36

CONCLUSION

Some of us are celebrating an answered prayer. Others are still carrying a question that hurts. Acts 12 makes room for both. We can thank God for his rescue and bring him our grief without pretending we understand it all. James's death does not mean God loved him less. Peter's rescue does not mean following Jesus would always be easy. Our hope rests in the character of our King, even when we cannot make sense of our circumstances.

And that hope calls us to live. The person who needs your attention matters. The act of obedience you keep putting off matters. The love you offer when you are tired matters. God is at work in this world, and he invites us to participate in what he is doing. We do not have to know how every part of the story unfolds to take the next faithful step. Jesus is King today. Let's live like we believe it.

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don't let this week's sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you're discovering!

