The **warning**: John 15:18, 20; 16:1-3

The **reality**: Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out *his* [Gr. *laid violent hands on*] hand to harass some from the church.

**I. HERE A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, THERE A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, EVERYWHERE A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

**Herod the Great**–**Herod Antipas**–**Herod Archelaus**–**Herod Philip**

**Herod Agrippa I**–**Herod Agrippa II**

*Get Agrippa yourself*!

**II. THE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GREW.** Acts 12:2

Political correctness can turn deadly! It often has!

James, the brother of John was the **first apostle to be martyred**. He had been one of Jesus’ *inner circle*.

**III. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ WAS IMPRISONED.** Acts 12:3-4

Why such a heavy guard? Acts 5?

What did the church do? 12:5-6

**IV. THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** Acts 12:7-11

The angel had to tell him everything:

 1. *Wake up.*

 2. *Get up quickly.*

 3. *Put on your inner garment.*

 4. *Tie your sandals.*

 5. *Put on your outer garment.*

 6. *Follow me!*

Peter thought he was seeing a vision again…he did not know that what was happening was real!

We cannot **escape** our sin nature! We must be **delivered** by the Only One Who can deliver us!

**V. THE GREAT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OF THE CHURCH!** Acts 12:12-17

**VI. HEROD’S \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.** Acts 12:18-23

We should never rob God by accepting praise due only to Him!

**VII. THE WORK CONTINUED.** Acts 12:24-25

**CONC:**

 A. Lessons from the church at Mary’s house:

1. The church prayed together. 12:5; Mat 18:19

2. The prayer group was inclusive, rich and poor, men and women, servants and masters. 12:12-13

3. Their prayer was constant. 12:5

4. They prayed for 8 days. 12:2, 4-5

5. They prayed to God. 12:5

6. They continued all night. 12:12

7. They prayed in spite of their doubts. 12:15-16

8. Along with prayer, they exercised common sense. 12:17

9. God did more than they asked for. 12:23-24

 B. Lessons learned from Peter:

1. Rest easy in all circumstances.

2. Obey the commands of God.

3. Keep on knocking until the door opens.

4. Use good sense.

 C. Lessons learned from Agrippa.

1. You can’t lock up what God wants freed.

2. Don’t rob God of glory due Him.

3. There is only one God, and we aren’t Him!

*Ans: Herod, Herod, Herod; Pressure; Escape; Faith; Death;*

Next week: *“The First Missionary Team”*