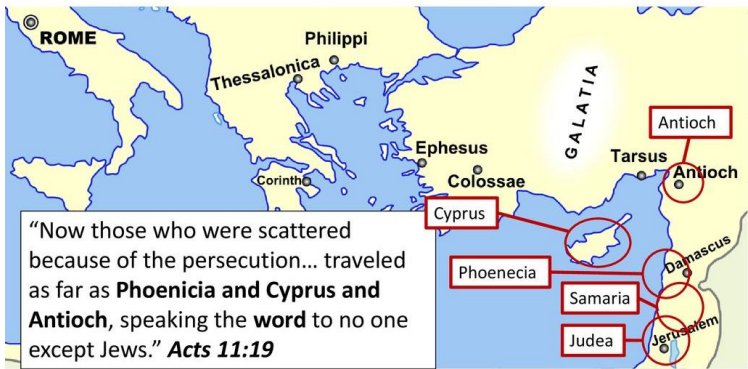


Acts 11:19-21

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believe and turned to the Lord.



Mystery isn’t the absence of meaning but the presence of more meaning than we can comprehend.

Acts 11:25-26

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Tarsus = in south central Turkey
Antioch = east of Tarsus, in Turkey, near the border of Syria



Acts 12:1-4

1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. 4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

Acts 12:5

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

earnestly = a medical term used when a muscle is stretched to its max

Acts 12:21-24

21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. 22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." 23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. 24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

Stephen is executed—James is beheaded—Peter is arrested & released—the church is earnestly praying—and Herod is struck dead and eaten by worms.

- **God gets the last word—but you might not get to see it in this life.**
- **It's in that space in-between, where we don't get to see it, that our faith must live.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)



In 1935, Bonhoeffer created a small seminary at Finkenwalde, Germany. Goal was to train up church leaders who would stand firm and resist the pressure to bow to Hitler and the Nazis.

A young historian came to visit the seminary and report on the work. Dietrich walked his visitor up a hill, to an opening in the trees where they could see a large Nazi airfield and training camp with hundreds of soldiers marching in alignment.

Bonhoeffer turned to his guest and said, "*THIS (pointing back to Finkenwalde) has to be stronger than THAT (pointing to Nazi training camp).*"