

Acts Part 14 How To Deal With Your Herod

Pastor John Carmichael

[Act 12:11, 24 NASB95] 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." ... 24 But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

- One of the most frustrating parts of life is when something gets in your way. Slow moving car in front of you. A cat at your feet in the morning when you are trying to get coffee. OR something far more serious and consequential like health crisis, financial set-backs, demonic interference or even when people undermine us.
- One of the gross realities of life this side of heaven is that we are dealing with many hinderances to us doing the things that God has called us to fulfill. Today, I am calling those hindrances "HEROD."
- Acts 12 is mostly about Herod. He had inserted himself as an enemy of the church. He killed James. He had Peter imprisoned. Yet, God counters this powerful king. God delivers Peter. Ultimately, God strikes Herod down.

How do we deal with the Herod's in our lives?

Three principles to deal with our Herod's.

I. God wants us to know that our Herods are deadly.

a. V. 1-4

- i. The enemy attacks the church through attacking us.
 - ii. The enemy killed James – no mention of prayer for him. Do not assume that God chose to let him be martyred.
 - iii. The enemy will be relentless.
- b. [1Pe 5:8 NASB95] 8 Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- c. Learn to take the enemy seriously. Quit thinking taking the war we are in lightly.

II. God wants us to know that our Herods need to be confronted through prayer.

a. V. 5-17

- i. Prayer needs to be made by church.
 - ii. Prayer will release the supernatural.
 1. Angelic help.
 2. Chains fall.
 3. Direction (get dressed.)
 4. Doors open.
 - iii. Prayer should cause us to expect things to happen. Rhoda left Peter at the door. The people who were praying had a hard time believing Peter actually was delivered.
- b. It's time to take these battles to God. Our battles belong to the Lord. God wants His battles back. [2Ch 20:15 NASB95] 15 and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.
- c. The real reason the enemy is fighting us is because of God. God will bring the victory when we give the battles back to God through prayer.

III. God wants us to know that our Herods will be dealt with by God.

a. V. 20-24

- i. Do not get upset or impressed with you see the enemy succeed for a time.

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- ii. There are times the enemy seems to have the upper hand.
 - iii. God will strike down your enemy.
 - b. [Psa 37:1-2, 7, 9-13, 20, 32-34 NASB95] 1 [A Psalm] of David. Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers. 2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb. ... 7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. ... 9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. 10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be [there.] 11 But the humble will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. 12 The wicked plots against the righteous And gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees his day is coming. ... 20 But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures, They vanish like smoke they vanish away. ... 32 The wicked spies upon the righteous And seeks to kill him. 33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand Or let him be condemned when he is judged. 34 Wait for the LORD and keep His way, And He will exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.
 - c. God will absolutely counter the enemy.
- **Although we all encounter “Herods” (hindrances of various kinds), we need to take them seriously by calling out to God in prayer knowing that God is infinitely bigger and strong than them.**