

All the Wrong Questions from Acts Chapter 12

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

A lot going on in this chapter of Acts:

- **Violence**
- **Action**
- **Political Intrigue**
- **Fighting City Hall**
- **Plot Twists**
- **G.P.D.***
- **And of course, my favorite....**
 - **Another Jailbreak!!!!**
- **Many, many questions (and hopefully something for us to learn)**

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 12:5

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

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 12:6-9

6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. **7** Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. **9** Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.



Acts 12:10-11

10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. *When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.*

11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 12:12-15

12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. **13** Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. **14** When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

15 "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 12:16-19a

16 BUT PETER KEPT ON KNOCKING, AND WHEN THEY OPENED THE DOOR AND SAW HIM, THEY WERE ASTONISHED. 17 PETER MOTIONED WITH HIS HAND FOR THEM TO BE QUIET AND DESCRIBED HOW THE LORD HAD BROUGHT HIM OUT OF PRISON. "TELL JAMES AND THE BROTHERS ABOUT THIS," HE SAID, AND THEN HE LEFT FOR ANOTHER PLACE.

18 IN THE MORNING, THERE WAS NO SMALL COMMOTION AMONG THE SOLDIERS AS TO WHAT HAD BECOME OF PETER. 19 AFTER HEROD HAD A THOROUGH SEARCH MADE FOR HIM AND DID NOT FIND HIM, HE CROSS-EXAMINED THE GUARDS AND ORDERED THAT THEY BE EXECUTED.

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Acts 12:19b-25

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while. 20 He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.

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.

25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Once ingested, the eggs hatch in the intestines and release larvae. The larvae can penetrate through the intestinal wall and through the surrounding tissues and organs, leading to a disease called visceral larval migrans (VLM). The severity of the disease depends upon the number of larvae migrating and the tissues to which they migrate, but the brain and eyes are most often affected. **Symptoms of infection include confusion, incoordination, blindness and death.**”



All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lots of Why, What, How, Questions so far...

It's not that those questions are wrong, it's just that they're the wrong questions

- Man's quest for Why
- Ultimately frustrating
- Conjecture, speculation, and opinion
- Can still teach us some things, but....

The Right Question for Acts 12, the one that we can actually answer today, isn't what, or why, or how.

Who?

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Who did James put his trust in? Who lived in his heart even at the moment of his death? Who made his death a victory, not a tragedy?

Whose power did the church rely on in the face of Herod's power?

Who answered the prayers of the church?

Who delivered Peter from prison?

Who did Peter credit with his rescue?

Who proved himself to be King of kings?

Who provides victory and justice at the end of all things?

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Who is still providing God-sized head starts today?

Who is still waiting for the church to come together and call on his name for help?

Who is still rescuing his followers?

Who still converts tragedy into victory?

Who makes it possible to stop being consumed by what, why, and how?

Answer – the same God we find in Acts 12

All the Wrong Questions from Acts 12



MEADOWLARK
CHURCH OF CHRIST

What will bring us together as a church to pray like they did in this chapter?

What will you do with your God-sized head start?

Who is in control in the current chapter of history just as he was in Acts chapter 12?

How can you get peace from all of your “wrong questions”?