

Acts: O Church, Arise!
May 10, 2026 – Acts 12:1-17
Prayer Defies Expectations

Message for today – God answers prayers in ways that overcome evil intentions and overwhelm our own small expectations.

Herod intended to parade Peter for Passover

Peter thought he was seeing a vision that wasn't real

Mary's household planned a night of prayer for Peter

Reflections
Acts 12:1-17

Hear the Word

1. What is this passage telling me about who God is (His character, actions, attributes, Word)?
2. What does it tell me about the original audience, or about the nature of sin?
3. What themes do I see here, and how do any of those connect with what I am currently facing?
4. What is the main purpose of this passage, and does it bring other passages to mind?
5. What does this passage help me to see about Jesus or the gospel?

Do the Word

1. How do my actions, thoughts, words or emotions need to change in light of this passage?
2. What evidence of God's work in my life do I need to thank and praise Him for?
3. How does my prayer life need to change as a result of this?
4. Do I see any other way that this should impact my worship of God?

Next Week: Acts 12:18-24