



unexpected

THE DIVINE ⇌ IN BETWEEN

ACTS 12:20-24

a cautionary tale

I. CAUTION: God will not honor someone who uses their _____ to serve themselves.

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. v. 20

God entrusts us with influence in order to serve _____ .

II. CAUTION: God will not honor someone who builds an _____ to be praised by others.

On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. v. 21

God is more concerned with what is on the _____ than what we present on the outside.

III. CAUTION: God will not honor someone who accepts His _____ for themselves.

And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. vv. 22-23

God will not give up the glory He alone _____ .

⇌ **But the word of God INCREASED and MULTIPLIED.** v. 24 ⇌

GOD WILL HONOR
God will honor
those who use His ways
to do His will, so ...

_____ yourself, thinking rightly about yourself and God.

_____ yourself with Christlikeness so people praise God.

_____ God the glory for the things He has done and continues to do.

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 12:20-24, and also look back at verses 1-5. What do we learn about Herod here?

"INDEED, ONE CANNOT FAIL to admire the artistry with which Luke depicts the complete reversal of the church's situation. At the beginning of the chapter Herod is on the rampage—arresting and persecuting church leaders; at the end he is himself struck down and dies. The chapter opens with James dead, Peter in prison, and Herod triumphing; it closes with Herod dead, Peter free, and the Word of God triumphing. Such is the power of God to overthrow hostile human plans and to establish his own in their place. Tyrants may be permitted for a time to boast and bluster, oppressing the church and hindering the spread of the gospel, but they will not last. In the end their empire will be broken and their pride abased."

JOHN STOTT

"AGRIPPA DIDN'T SUDDENLY acquire the worms. He died suddenly because of them. How long had those worms been devouring the man from the inside? While he sat in haughty power over James before sentencing him to die? When he ordered the arrest of Peter and then played the pious king at Passover? When he laid plans to expand his holdings into Syria? No matter. His manner of death simply revealed his manner of living. A man eaten by worms presumed to sit in judgment over God's people, and he fell as quickly as he had risen."

CHARLES SWINDOLL

2. Additional details about Herod Agrippa from the Jewish historian Josephus were revealed in the sermon. What do the Scripture passage and these additional details together tell you about God's character as He dealt with this man?

3. Instead of crushing the church's existence, what did persecution of the church only serve to do? How are you encouraged by this, despite what you see around you?

4. In what ways are you building up your own image on the outside so others may be impressed or praise you?

5. What does it mean to "think rightly" about yourself and about God? What does that look like in everyday life?

6. Can we give God glory and at the same time accept a compliment for what we do? How did the sermon advise you going forward as you influence others for God's glory?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



ELDER AND DEACON

NOMINATIONS This Sunday, and for the next three Sundays, you can scan this QR code to see our full list of Elder and Deacon candidates. This list has been unanimously approved by our Board of Elders, and there you'll also find the constitutional requirements for these leadership positions. If you are a constitutional member of Christ Chapel, you'll receive a voting link at the end of the month to cast your vote. This link will be sent out prior to our annual meeting held on Sunday, Aug. 27.

FAMILY VISION NIGHT Join us for Family Vision Night on Sunday, Aug. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All families with students in Grades 5-12 are invited to enjoy dinner together, connect with other families, meet the Fort Worth Campus team and learn about the vision for the upcoming year in student ministry. No RSVP is required. See you there!

AVENEW Whether you're dating, engaged or newly married, there's a spot for you at AVENEW this fall. This class walks with couples through topics every relationship encounters while pointing back to Jesus and what His Word says about relationships, communication, conflict and more. Find details today by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/avenew.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: DAVID'S SONGS A place to connect, grow and learn, Women in the Word is a ministry designed for women of all ages to be in community around God's Word! This fall, join the Women in the Word study on Psalms at www.ccbcfamily.org/wi.w.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED Starting this fall, Band of Brothers will continue their journey through Exodus and witness the steadfast faithfulness God has for his people. To learn more about Band of Brothers, and this upcoming study, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

OPERATION ZIP CODE We have the privilege of partnering with Freedom Shield, a foundation that strives to end hunger insecurity within our metroplex. On Saturday, Sept. 2, they will be hosting an event at Jacquet Middle School to hand out lunches and we would love for you to join us! Learn more by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/zipcode.

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you. Learn more at: www.ccbcfamily.org/production.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT

CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.