

Study Guide Questions

Acts of the Apostles 12:18-25

1. In this lesson, Pastor Alan suggested that the Gospel changes everything. In what ways do you think the Gospel has shaped Western society? Can you think of concrete examples?
2. Christians have historically spoken out against injustice in an effort to change societal practices. Are there some 'common practices' in America today which Christians should address?
3. If the major theme of the Bible is the *Kingdom of God*, as Pastor Alan insists, how would you define it?
4. Do you agree that I Samuel 8:5 represents the hour of ancient Israel's supreme failure? Why? In light of this, how would you understand John 19:15?
5. How can we be on our guard to avoid Israel's failure in understanding God's Kingdom?
6. Do you resonate with the statement, "*America: right or wrong.*" If so, why? If not, why not?
7. In what ways, if any, do you believe Christianity can be counter-cultural?
8. What principles should a Christian employ in an un-Christian world?
9. What has Acts 12:18-25 to teach us concerning secular and divine authorities? What are appropriate ways to respond to each?
10. What do you believe to be Herod's fatal mistake in Acts 12:21-23? Why do you think God responded so pitilessly?
11. What inherent dangers do you see in longing for and thriving on fame and power?
12. As Christians, we march to a different tune. Sometimes, however, we feel overwhelmed by the beat of the world. Are there ways we can resist the incessant noise of our society?