This passage ends off a section that is all about how the gospel broke out from a purely Jewish Church and went to the Gentiles. This is how it all started; God’s mission to the nations! Here we have a wonderful portrait of how a church of both Jews and Gentiles was founded in the city of Antioch, how the Apostles endorsed it and how these Gentile believers expressed love to their brothers and sisters in Judaea.

Q Read v19-24. What made these missionaries leave Jerusalem? Where did they go? Why do you think they chose these destinations?

Q Why do you think the Apostles sent Barnabas?

Q What did Barnabas instruct these new, Gentile believers to do? What did he NOT require from them?

Q Read v25-26. Why do you think Barnabas sought out Paul to help?

Q Read v27-30. What is remarkable about the way the Christians in Antioch respond to the forthcoming crisis?

Q How does this passage challenge us today: About telling others the good news about Jesus? About the reality of the global church and the part we play in it?
Date: 3rd October 2021  
Passage: Acts 12  
Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

This chapter seems to hold together as a unit. Taken as a whole, these 3 incidents (Herod’s persecution of the church – Peter’s deliverance – Herod’s demise) are a powerful reminder to the Church then and now, that even when the World is against us, God is for us – and He is in charge.

Personal Application

Q Read v1-5. What do you know about King Herod? Why do you think he was so intent on persecuting the church?

Q What is significant about the timing of this incident?

Q Read v6-19. Why would it be misleading to call this a “prison escape”? At what point does Peter become aware of what has happened?

Q Why do you think the disciples find it so hard to believe that Peter is at the door? Why is this strange in light of v5?

Q Read v19b – 24. What happens to Herod and why? What is significant about Luke tagging v24 to the end of this account?

Q How does this passage challenge us about our attitude to persecution and the importance of prayer?
This chapter tells us about the start of the first Missionary journey aimed at taking the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas are set aside for the work both by the Holy Spirit and by their church in Antioch. The first leg of their journey takes them right across the island of Cyprus.

Q Read v1-4. How did the church in Antioch know that they should appoint Barnabas and Saul as missionaries? What do you think this looked like? What can we learn here about process of sending missionaries to the mission field?

Q Read v 5-12. Where does this missionary team initially look for opportunities to proclaim the Gospel? Why?

Q Why do you think Elymas was so keen to stop Sergius Paulus believing their message? In what ways do we encounter similar opposition today?

Q How does Paul confront this obstacle? What can we learn from the way he handles it?

Q How is blindness and darkness a good picture of unbelief and lack of understanding?

Q What is the answer to spiritual blindness?