

# JESUS CONTINUED

*BY THE SPIRIT, THROUGH THE CHURCH, IN THE WORLD*

## The Triumphant Word of God

Acts 12 (p. 920)

- As the chapter begins: James is killed, Peter is imprisoned, and Herod is triumphant. As the chapter continues and concludes: Peter is released, Herod is killed, and God's word is triumphant.
- Most rulers seek to destroy the church, with its message, and many Christians have suffered and died at the hands of earthly powers.
- There are two kinds of kingdoms that are at war. The kingdoms of man which have "prison" as a weapon, and the kingdom of God which has "prayer".
- The lesson here is that God's sovereignty and will are both inscrutable and unpredictable.
- As the chapter ends, we see the word of God proclaimed by the church, crashing through all that is in its way and advancing.

## Sermon Study Guide

(Reminder: The purpose of the questions is to explore the text and themes of the sermon. **Do not feel a need to go through all of the questions, but try to discuss/study some in each category.** The goal is to stimulate discussion/reflection and transformation related to the sermon text and themes.)

1. What evidences of grace have you seen since we last met?
2. What is the overall conclusion and assurance given in this chapter? Notice other previous references that show it (Acts 2:47b, 4:31, 6:7, 8:4, 9:31, 11:20-21 & 24b) Who are you praying for and seeking to witness to about Christ?
3. Look at the bullet points of the Listening Guide (other side) and talk about what they say and how each teaches, encourages or challenges you.
4. What stuck out to you from the sermon Sunday?
5. What themes do you find helpful or interesting?
6. What sin did the Holy Spirit convict you of in this sermon?
7. How were you encouraged by this passage?
8. How does this passage connect to or inform our understanding of the gospel?