

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

April 1, 2013

### Power Hungry I

**ACTS 12:21-24 NKJV** – (21) So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. (22) And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" (23) Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. (24) But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Ego drove King Herod of Paul's day, just as it had driven his father and grandfather. They all desperately lacked character. Herod was the surname of a family of rulers who held power by permission of the Roman Empire. Herod the Great ruled at the time of Jesus.' birth; he was the leader responsible for killing all the male babies in Bethlehem. Herod Antipas ordered the beheading of John the Baptizer. The Herod in **Acts 12** is Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the Great. The Herod's lack of character provides us with many examples of what not to do as a leader:

- 1) Herod mistreated his own citizens (**ACTS 12:1**). He unjustly ordered the arrests of Jewish believers in order to harass them.
- 2) Herod executed innocent people (**ACTS 12:2**). He had the Apostle James killed by the sword, although he had committed no crime.
- 3) Herod made decisions based on popularity (**ACTS 12:3**). When he saw it pleased the Jews to kill James, he had Peter arrested, too.
- 4) Herod acted irrationally in difficult times (**ACTS 12:19**). He killed the 16 guards who had been on duty at the time of Peter's prison escape.
- 5) Herod harbored anger towards others (**ACTS 12:20**). He remained angry towards outside ethnic groups and looked for ways to get even.
- 6) Herod sought power out of insecurity (**ACTS 12:20**). He enjoyed controlling others and especially loved having people at his mercy.
- 7) Herod projected an infallible image (**ACTS 12: 21-22**). He loved wearing his royal garb and being worshiped.
- 8) Herod was blinded by his ego (**ACTS 12:23**). He lived in an unreal world and was unable to see how his ego sabotaged his leadership.

Herod lost everything, including his life. He did not display the character of Christ in any fashion. Many leaders today display the same character as Herod, but many in the congregation see these leaders as "a voice of god." Remember, God sees, hears and knows everything. To those who are suffering, "I have never seen the righteous forsaken!" Justice will be served (**JAMES 3:1**). We (the people of God) must be in prayer for our leaders at all times, even when they are in the wrong. God hears your prayer.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

PSALM 37:25

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

A truly blind person is not one who cannot see but one who chooses not to.

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