

## The Power of Prayer

Text – Acts 12:1-5

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. <sup>2</sup> And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

<sup>3</sup> And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) <sup>4</sup> And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

<sup>5</sup> Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

### I. Why did Herod put James to death?

#### A. The New Testament list 4 Herods

1. Herod the Great – who tried to kill baby Jesus
2. Herod Antipas – who killed John the Baptist
3. Herod Agrippa I – who killed James brother of John
4. Herod Agrippa II – Paul stood before in Trial (Acts 25)

#### B. Why did he Kill James?

1. Chapter 10 & 11 Acts – Gentile accepted Jesus at Cornelius house and Antioch
2. Sanhedrin stirred up over Gentile conversion without circumcision
3. Herod Agrippa I – did it to gain favor with Sanhedrin

### II. Peter Arrested

#### A. Feast of Unleavened Bread – 8 days

#### B. Guarded by 4 soldiers – every 6 hours (16 a day)

1. Chained to 2 soldiers because of Acts 5:17-23
2. Earnest prayer – around the clock made (intercession in warfare praying ) Peter was free
3. Mary house – site of the Passover and Pentecost
4. Peter traveled outside of Israel