**NMBC February Acts 12 – Peter & Herod-**

Outline:

Young church is growing – new believers – many Gentiles also become part of the church (see last week!)

King Herod, who is a Jew, feels threatened by this and deicides to persecute the church.

First he has James killed –

Then he arrests Peter, puts him in prison and plans to kill him too.

This is a crisis for young church.

We can learn 3 truths from what happened.

1. God is all powerful – Herod thought he had all the power because of his military strength but in v 23 Herod is killed by an angel because he did not give praise to God.
2. God intervenes when people pray. After Peter’s arrest the church prayed and God answered their prayers and rescued Peter.

Notice their prayer was: earnest (from their hearts); specific, they prayed together with other people, and yet they were surprised how God answered them!

1. But God is also Sovereign – in control, we can’t always understand his actions. So in this passage, why was James killed but Peter was rescued? We don’t know – but we have to trust that God knows and God is in control. We can do this because God loves us more than we can ever know so He will work things out for our good.

When you face a crisis remember these 3 truths:

God is all powerful, God responds to our prayers and yet God is also sovereign and in control.

Romans 8:28. *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.*