**(Palm Sunday) Acts Week 32: Praise to the King of Kings (Acts 12:19-25)** The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever! In our text, Herod, wearing his royal robes, sitting on his throne, and being called a god by the people was struck down by the Lord for not giving praise to God. Our lives self-destruct when we take for our glory, that which is due Him. On this Palm Sunday we will also look at the triumphant entry of Jesus to the praises of “Hosanna, Hosanna!”. Praises that were short-lived. Are we praising Him continually or have ours had an expiration date also?

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’s the one who killed all the 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. (Section on Herod in Maxwell Leadership Bible pg. 1367)

Acts 12:23

That people, when they seek praise and flattery, expose themselves to the displeasure of God. His glory he will not give to another, Isa 42:8.

Isaiah 42:8 (NIV) "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.

James 4:6 …"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Acts 14:11,14-15 11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.

Psalm 100 read together aloud:

Psalm 100 (NIV) 1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

* What is praise?
* “I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment. It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; the delight is incomplete till it is expressed.” - C.S. Lewis
* “Our heart’s desire should be to worship God; we have been designed by God for this purpose. If we don’t worship God, we’ll worship something or someone else.” – John Wimber
* ***Praise*-** has to do with “prize” singing for joy of the prize.
* **Praise is not just a reaction from coming into His presence- praise is a vehicle of faith which brings us into the presence and power of God!**
* Worship is a response to God’s love, presence, acceptance, patience....
* Worship is all about Jesus

Romans 11:36 (NLT) For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

Hebrews 13:15-16 (NLT) 15 Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. 16 And don’t forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV) 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV) So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Romans 1:18-25 (NIV) 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Fernando, Ajith. “Herod’s Death (12:20 – 24)” In *The NIV Application Commentary*: Acts. By Ajith Fernando, 363-364. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, © 1998.

**Herod’s Death (12:20 – 24)**

HEROD'S DEFLATED EGO received a big boost at his conference with the desperate delegates from Tyre and Sidon, who, deprived of their food supply, resort to flattery to win him over (vv. 20 – 22). The account of this incident by Josephus, the Jewish historian of the first century, supplements the sketchy account given here.

• According to Luke, Herod was “wearing his royal robes” (v. 21); Josephus writes that he wore a garment made wholly of silver, which shone in a surprising manner when the rays of the sun touched it.

• Luke says that Herod’s punishment was because he did not praise God when the flatterers shouted that his was the voice of a god (vv. 22 – 23). Josephus reports that “the king did neither rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery.”

• Josephus says that he had violent abdominal pains and died five days later, whereas Luke says, “Immediately … an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died” (v. 23). This apparent discrepancy can be explained in that Luke applied the “immediately” to the striking down with sickness (which took place immediately), not to the dying (which took place five days later).

We are not told the exact cause of the death; Longenecker suggests it may have been through infection by intestinal roundworms. There is irony here too, for the man who was glorious on the outside was rotting of worms on the inside.

Longnecker, Richard N. “2. The death of Herod Agrippa I (12b:19-23)” In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Abridged Edition*: New Testament. 451. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, © 1994.

Luke's reference to worms suggests an infection by intestinal roundworms, which grow as long as ten to sixteen inches and feed on the nutrient fluids in the intestines. Bunches of roundworms can obstruct the intestines, causing severe pain, copious vomiting of worms, and death.

Acts 12:23

[Because he gave not God the glory] Because he was willing to receive the worship due to God. It was the more sinful in him as he was a Jew, and was acquainted with the true God, and with the evils of idolatry. He was proud, and willing to be flattered, and even adored. He had sought their applause; he had arrayed himself in this splendid manner to excite admiration; and when they carried it even so far as to offer divine homage, he did not reject the impious flattery, but listened stir to their praises.

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