

## Sermon Notes for January 18, 2026

**Title:** Real Trouble and Real Triumph in Real Time

**Text:** Acts 11:27-12:25

1. The early church faced \_\_\_\_\_ but the word of God increased and multiplied. (Acts 11:27-30; 6:7)
  - a. Christians listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - b. Christians care for the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  
2. The early church faced \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ but the word of God increased and multiplied. (Acts 12:1-4; 6:7)
  - a. Christians face \_\_\_\_\_ persecution.
  - b. Christians face \_\_\_\_\_ persecution.
  
3. The early church faced \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ but the word of God increased and multiplied. (Acts 12:5-19; 6:7)
  - a. Christians engage in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Christians trust in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. Christians walk by the \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. The early church faced \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ but the word of God increased and multiplied. (Acts 12:5-19; 6:7)
  - a. Christians engage in \_\_\_\_\_.
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  - c. Christians walk by the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. The early church faced \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ kings but the word of God increased and multiplied.  
(Acts 12:20-25; 6:7)

a. Christians give worship to the \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 13:2; Rev 1:5c; 17:14)

b. Christians bear witness to the \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 12:11, 24; 11:20-24; 2:36)

### Discussion Guide

1. What stood out to you in today's gathering?
2. Does the church require favorable conditions in order for the gospel to spread? Explain. Do we tend to grow more in our faith during difficult times or easy times? How do you explain this?
3. John Piper wrote, "Worship is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory... But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can't commend what you don't cherish... Missions begins and end in worship." How does worship and witness (missions) fit together?
4. Why was Peter rescued from prison and death but not James? Did the Lord fail James or prefer Peter? Did the church fail James by not praying earnestly enough for him?
5. How can you apply today's message to your life?

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