



A UNIFIED CHURCH  
**Earthly Powers &  
God's Sovereignty**

ACTS 12:20-25

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • November 20 & 21, 2021 • Acts, week 58 • Msg. 21-40

**Acts 12:20** Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food.  
**21** On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them.  
**22** And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!"  
**23** Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.  
**24** But the word of God increased and multiplied.  
**25** And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark. (ESV)

**1. Realize** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.20-22)

**2. Remember** \_\_\_\_\_ (v.23)

**3. Refocus** \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.24-25)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **James 4:6**. How have you seen this truth evidenced in your own life experience? What practical steps can you take to heed this sobering truth and live in light of it?
2. Read **Psalms 10:2-11**. Why do you think it might be easier for those in positions of earthly power, prosperity, and prestige to lose sight of the reality of who they actually are as dependent creatures before God?
3. Read **Luke 22:24-29**. Consider the areas of your life where God has placed you as a leader. What aspects of this instruction from Jesus can and should be applied more diligently as you discharge your stewardship as a leader? Be specific.
4. Read **Psalms 145:1-7**. How might you engage in what this psalm is describing, even though you are not a preacher or career minister?
5. Read **Psalms 73**. Why should a passage like this keep you from being a negative and pessimistic Christian in a culture with arrogant societal leaders?

## *This Week's Bible Reading Schedule*

**November 21<sup>st</sup>**  
*Ezk.24-26 & Jms.3*  
**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
*Ezk.27-28 & Jms.4*  
**November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Ezk.29-31 & Jms.5*  
**November 24<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ezk.32-33 & 1Pt.1*  
**November 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ezk.34-35 & 1Pt.2*  
**November 26<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ezk.36-37 & 1Pt.3*  
**November 27<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ezk.38-39 & 1Pt.4*  
**November 28<sup>th</sup>**  
*Ezk.40 & 1Pt.5*

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 18-22 – **Real Power & Prestige**  
Msg. 13-04 – **The Gospel's Assault on the Egocentric**  
Msg. 13-13 – **Managing Your Ambitions**  
Msg. 18-24 – **Pain & Temptation**  
Msg. 13-12 – **Curbing Your Appetites**  
Msg. 18-02 – **Lamenting His Rebellious Subjects**  
Msg. 21-18 – **The Challenges of Discipleship**

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Bunyan, John. **A Treatise of the Fear of God**. Reprint. CreateSpace, 2011.  
Carson, D. A. **Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility: Biblical Perspectives in Tension**. Wipf & Stock, 1994.  
Fabarez, Mike. **10 Mistakes People Make About Heaven, Hell, and the Afterlife**. Harvest House, 2018.  
Frank, Arnold L. **The Fear of God: A Forgotten Doctrine**. Second Edition. Nordskog Publishing, 2008.  
Mack, Wayne A. **Humility: The Forgotten Virtue**. P & R Publishing, 2005.  
Morgan, Christopher W. **Hell Under Fire: Modern Scholarship Reinvents Eternal Punishment**. Zondervan, 2004.  
Packer, J. I. **Weakness is the Way: Life with Christ Our Strength**. Crossway, 2013.  
Peterson, Robert. **Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment**. P & R Publishing, 1995.  
Reed, Gerard. **C. S. Lewis Explores Vice and Virtue**. Beacon Hill Press, 2001.  
Schreiner, Thomas & Bruce Ware. **Still Sovereign: Perspectives on Election, Foreknowledge & Grace**. Baker, 2000.  
Scott, Stuart. **From Pride to Humility: A Biblical Perspective**. Focus Publishers, 2003.  
Scroggie, W. Graham. **Tested by Temptation**. Pickering & Inglis Ltd., 1923.  
Stott, John. **Basic Christian Leadership**. InterVarsity, 2006.  
Venning, Ralph. **The Sinfulness of Sin**. Reprint. Banner of Truth, 1997.