

# “TWO CONTRASTING RESPONSES”

*(Acts 12:18-25)*

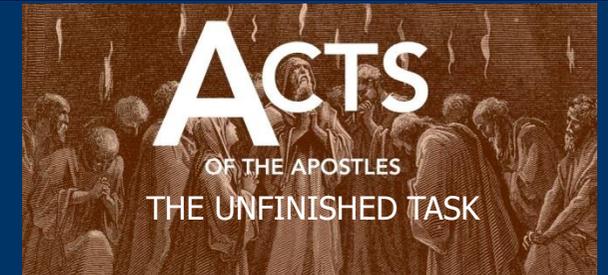
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*Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 26*

*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

*Date: September 15, 2019*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*



# INTRODUCTION:

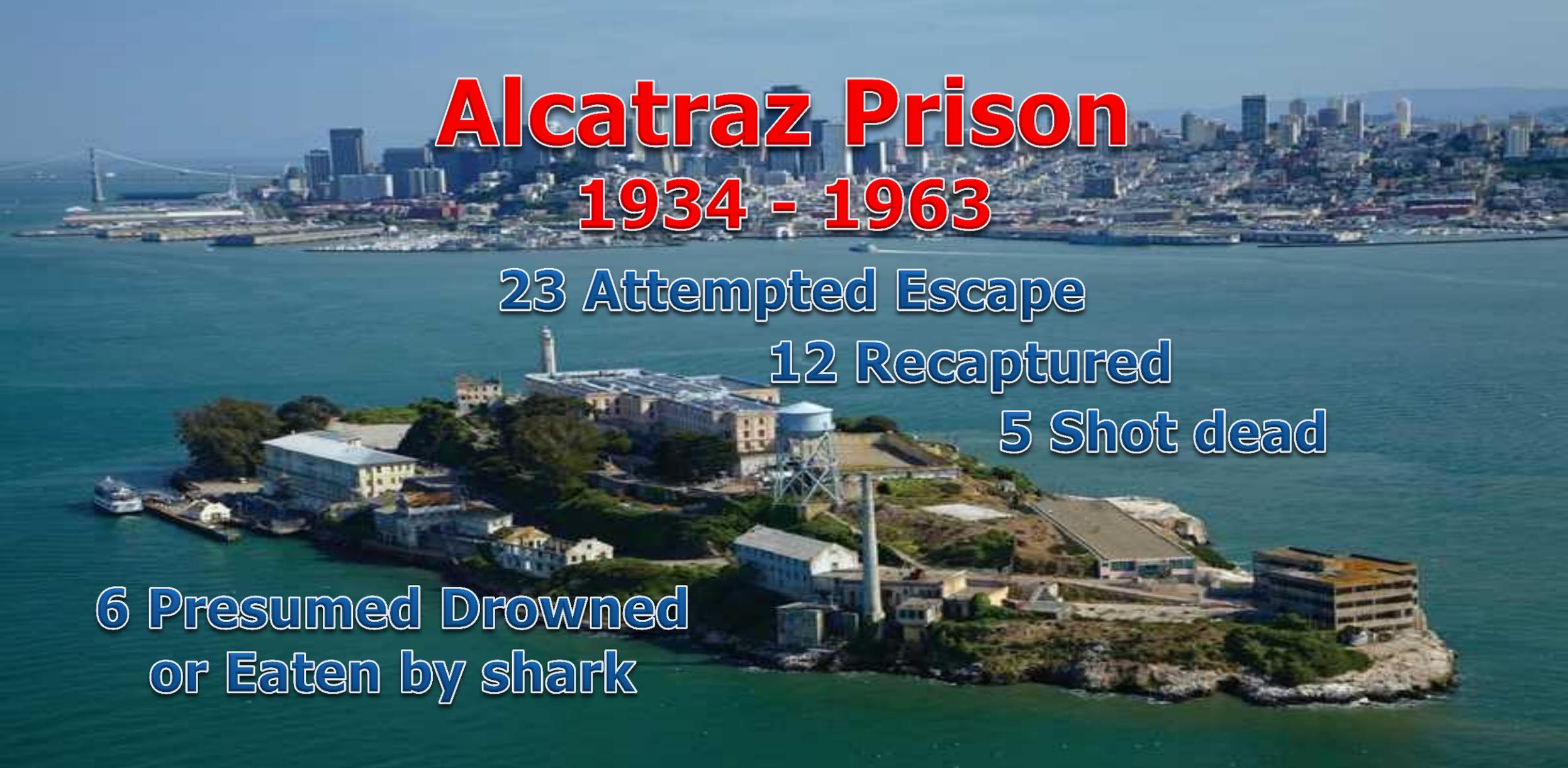
## Alcatraz Prison 1934 - 1963

23 Attempted Escape

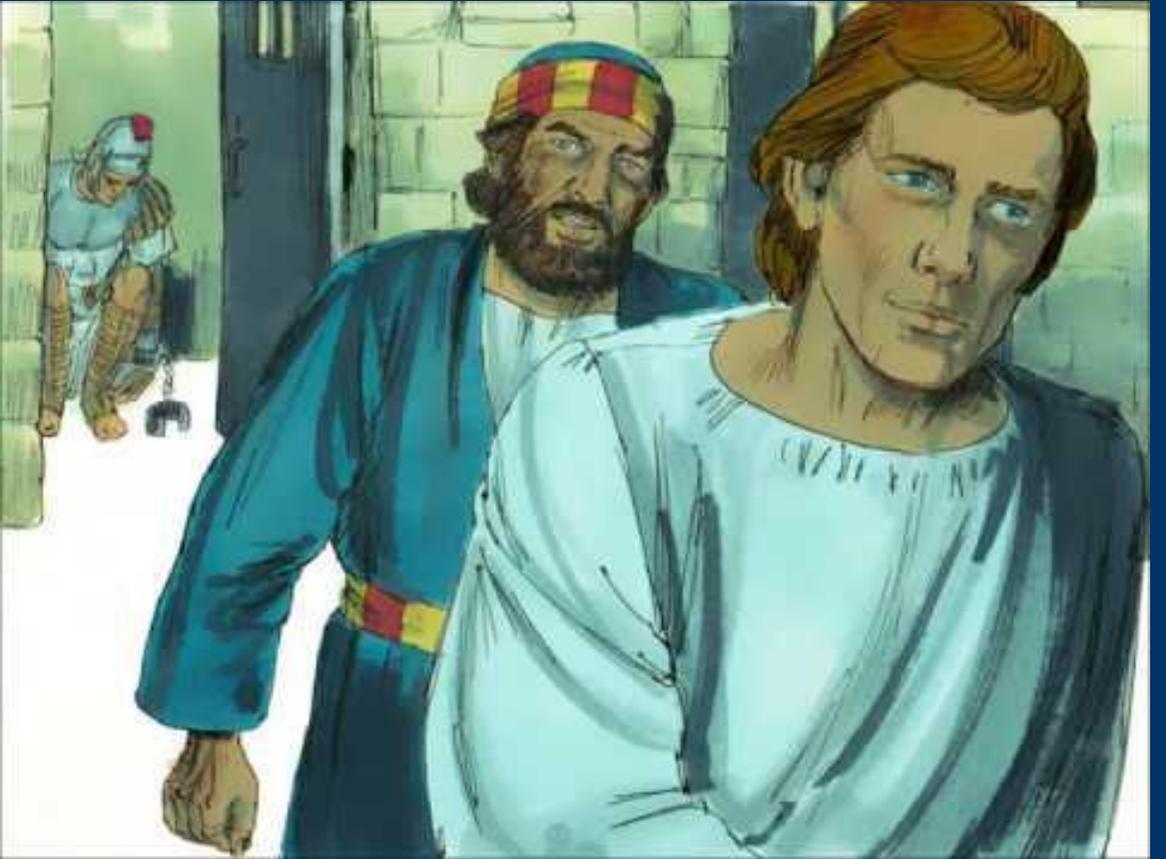
12 Recaptured

5 Shot dead

6 Presumed Drowned  
or Eaten by shark



# INTRODUCTION:



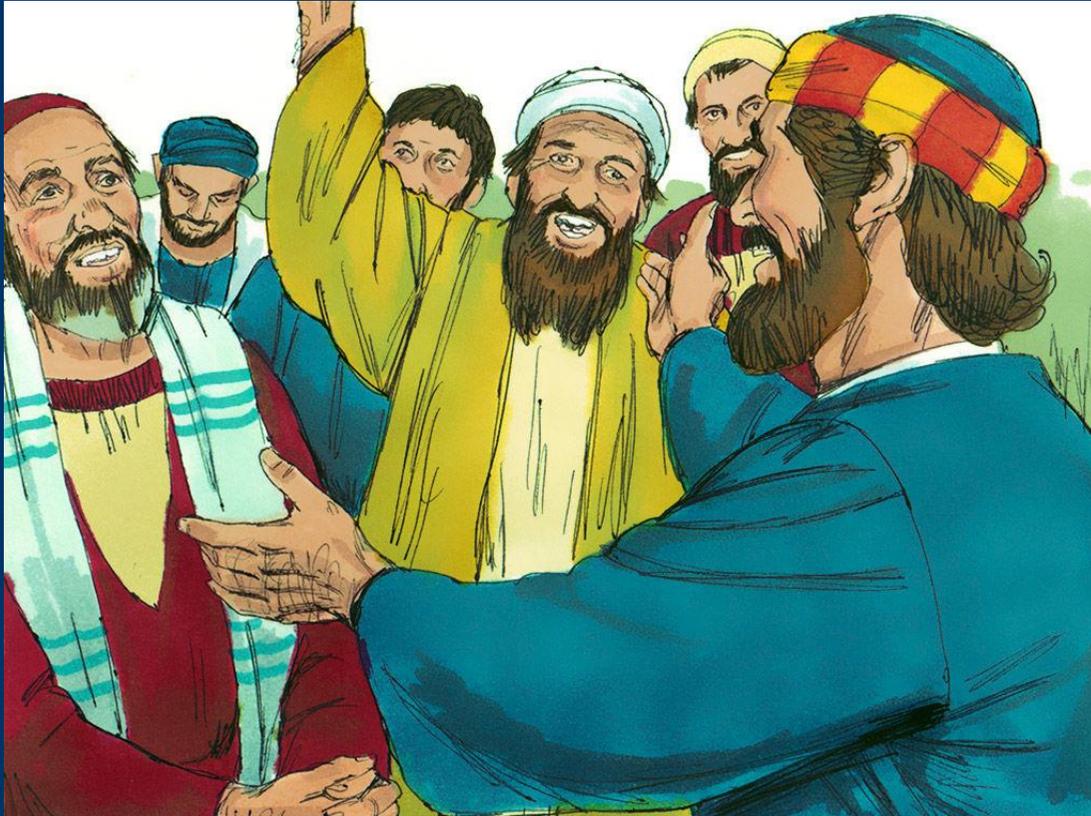
**Peter's  
Imprisonment**

**&**

**Miraculous  
Escape**

# INTRODUCTION:

## "Contrasting Responses to **Miracle**"



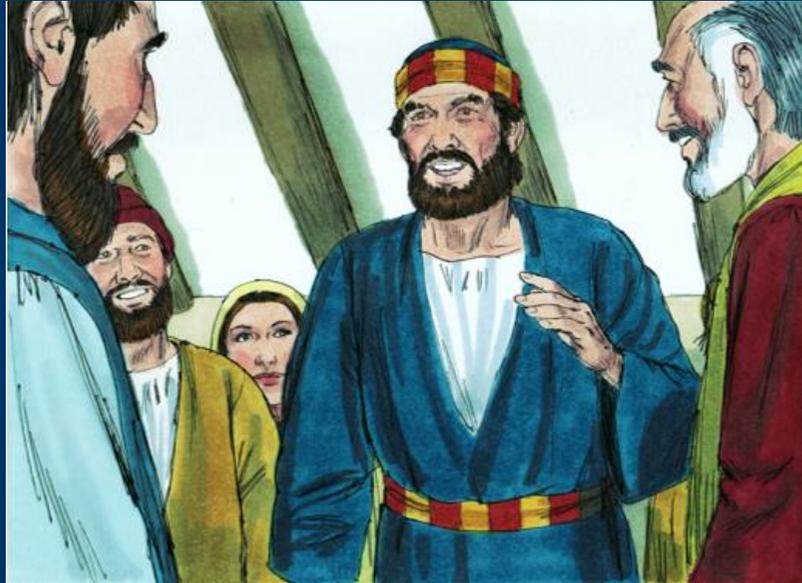
Christians **Rejoice**  
and **Celebrate**



Non-Christian in  
**Rage** and **Confusion**

# I. OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

## A) *For the Christian*



*Acts 12:17b* He described how the Lord had brought him out of prison.

*God is behind the events.*

# I. OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

## A) *For the Non-Christian*



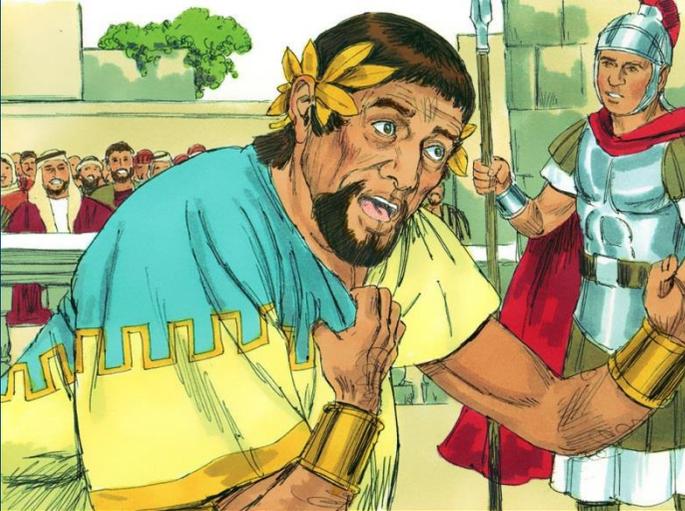
**Acts 12:18** *In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.*

*It defies experiential  
reason.*

## II. DIFFERENT REACTIONS

### A) Among Unbelievers

**Acts 12:19** After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

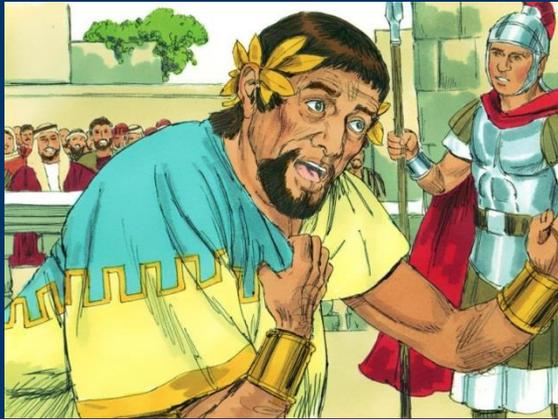


**Acts 12:19c** Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.



## II. DIFFERENT REACTIONS

### A) Among Unbelievers



***Escapism*** is a natural response for those who cannot turn to the Lord.



**Suicide**



**Illicit Affair**



**Blame**

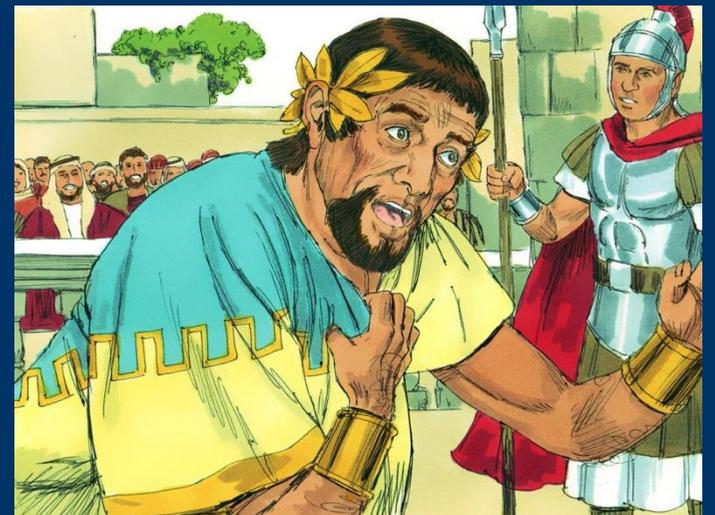


**Addiction**

## II. DIFFERENT REACTIONS

### A) *Among Unbelievers*

**Acts 12:20** *He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.*

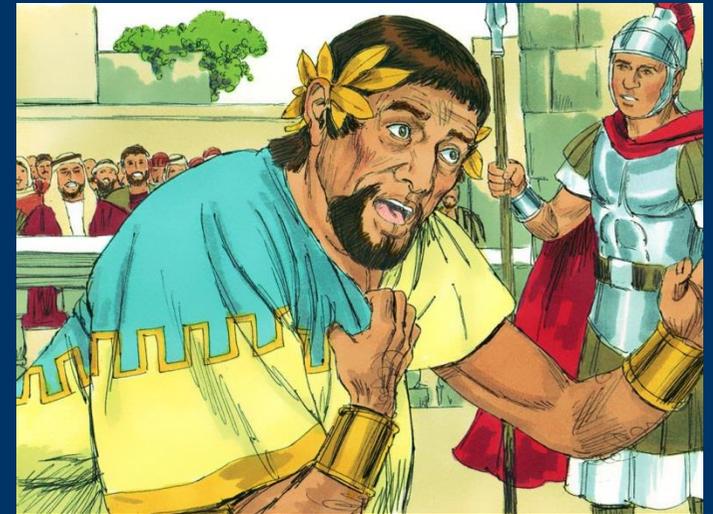


## II. DIFFERENT REACTIONS

### A) Among Unbelievers

**Acts 12:21** *On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup> They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."*

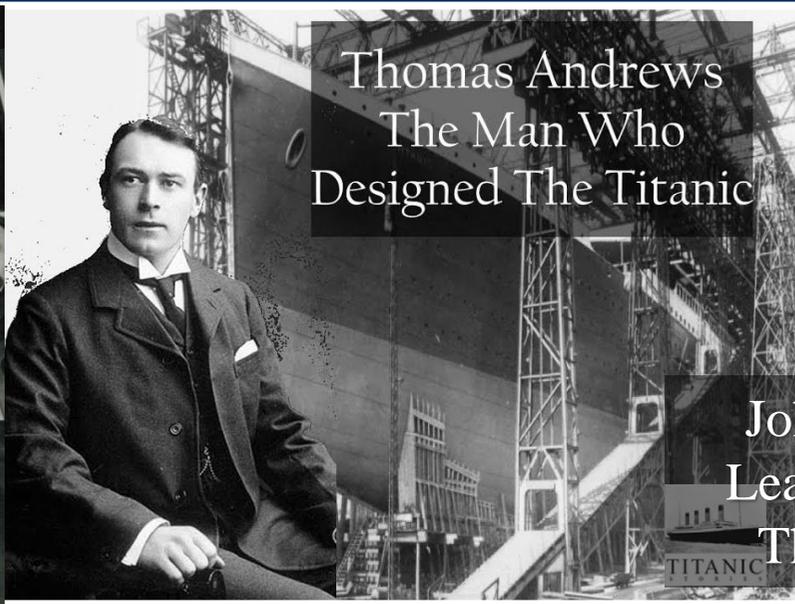
**Acts 12:23** *Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.*



## II. DIFFERENT REACTIONS

The tragic end of those who thrive on fame and power.

Politician



Celebrity

Architect

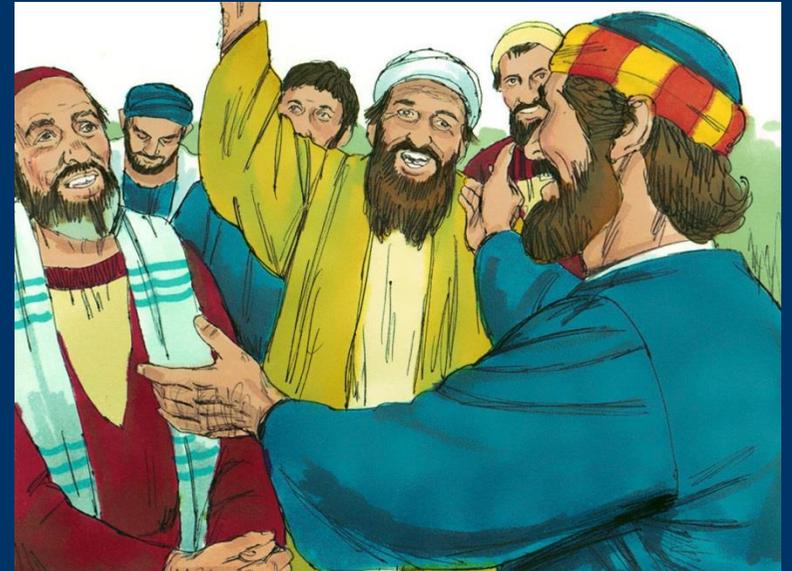
Journalist

God is Mighty and **MUST** be respected.

## II. DIFFERENT REACTIONS

### *B) Among Believers*

***Acts 12:24** But the word of God continued to spread and flourish. **25** When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.*



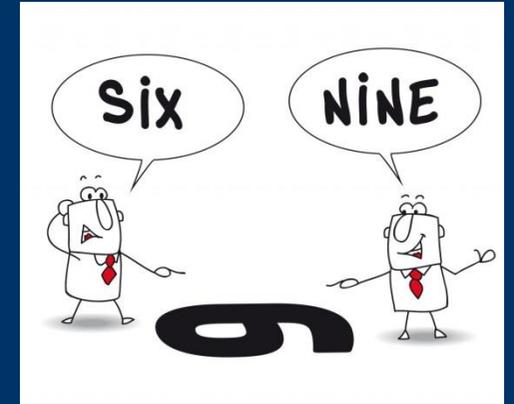
# CONCLUSION:



We've seen two contrasting perspectives and two ultimate ends.

***A) The Christian path led to hope and growth.***

***B) The Non-Christian road led to frustration and death.***



Let's look at two signposts of advice that the Scripture has left for us.

***1. To make any deep impact in life, we need the help of God.***

***2. Once we've tasted Christ's provision, nothing else satisfies.***





# CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is it like to be caught in a situation and you know that there is no hope of escaping?*
- 2. How does a Christian and a non-Christian look at a dead end situation?*
- 3. How does one perspective of things change the way a person react and outcome?*



*Scripture References:*

*Acts 12:18 – 25*