

## HEROD AGRIPPA: “TOM CAT”

### ACTS 12:19b-25

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Tom cats will kill their kittens to protect their territory. The Herods were notorious “tom cats.” They would do anything to protect their careers. See the Herods’ profiles in the Life Application Bible. (Matthew 3, Mark 6, Acts 12, Acts 27, and fn Acts 12:1)

**SOUGHT POPULARITY** and a career at the expense of people’s lives. Herod’s title was not genuine and his leadership was based on wrong values. (See profile in Matthew 3). His narcissistic behavior, his failure to honor God’s people, and his desire for position shows that Jesus was not his Lord. (**Acts 12:19-21, Acts 12:1-3, fn 12:3, Daniel 4:27-34, fn 4:23ff, fn 4:27-33, fn 4:34, Acts 10:22-26, fn 10:26**) *How do your priorities in your career and the responsibility of your family demonstrate that you are not a “tom cat”?*

**TRIED TO STEAL GOD’S GLORY.** Whenever we are proud of our own abilities and accomplishments and don’t recognize them as gifts from God, we repeat Herod’s sin. See Herod’s profile in Acts 12 in the Life Application Bible (**Acts 12:22,23, fn 12:23, James 4:6-10, fn 4:4-6, fn 4:10, I Peter 5:5,6, fn 5:6, fn 5:7, Proverbs 11:2, 18:12, 27:2, Isaiah 66:2, fn 66:2, 3, Micah 6:8, fn 6:8**) *Why is humility essential in our relationship with Christ?*

**LOST, BUT GOD’S WORD INCREASED AND SPREAD.** “... the opposition became a catalyst for the spread of Christianity. Growth during times of oppression showed that Christianity was not the work of humans, but of God.” Megathemes section at the beginning of the book of Acts in the Life Application Bible. (**Acts 12:24,25, Acts 4:24-31, fn 4:28, Psalms 119:9-11, fn 119:11, Hebrews 4:12, fn 4:12, Deuteronomy 32:44-47, fn 32:46, 47, I Thessalonians 2:13, fn 2:13**) *How could you encourage each member of your family to spend time in God’s Word?*

*Pray for one another’s needs.*

*Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?*

