

## Sermon Notes

Wi-Fi password for westwoodguestsecured: westwoodguest

With Jesus – You Win; Oppose Him – You Lose; Count On It!  
Acts 12 (Pew Bible page 920-921)

The church is growing. The gospel is advancing. Lives are being changed and whole cities are being impacted by the “Christians” (Acts 11:27). Before Luke tells about the next big step in the advancement of the gospel, the first missionary journey in Acts 13, he provides us with a story about opposition against church. The kingdom is advancing, but it comes at a cost. Jesus had promised his followers, individually and as a group, that they would face persecution. But he also promised to be with them during the trails and that, in the end, they would come out victorious.

John Stott wrote, “Indeed, throughout church history the pendulum has swung between expansion and opposition, growth and shrinkage, advance and retreat, through it all with the assurance that even the powers of death and hell will never prevail against Christ’s church, since it is built securely on the rock. (Message of Acts)

We need to be reminded that as we progress in this journey of faith, we do so in enemy territory. If we are walking with Christ and seeking to advance the gospel in our community, we will face opposition. You can count on it! But the success of the gospel and the advance of God’s kingdom is never in doubt. We can face this conflict and persecution with the unshakable assurance that Christ will win! You can count on it!

Violent Political Whims and Unfathomable Sovereign Plans (12: 1-4)

Urgent Intercession and Miraculous Intervention (12: 5-17)

Man’s Idolatry and God’s Retribution (12: 18-24)

The Word of God is Increasing and His Kingdom Will Never Fail. Count On It!

Applications:

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## Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

### Sunday

*In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:*

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

**Know**

### Monday

*Spend some time today doing the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

**Know > Be**

### Tuesday

*In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:*

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

**Be**

### Wednesday

*Think about this week's questions for group discussion:*

How does this passage help us to understand prayer in light of God's sovereignty? Based on how we've seen this church pray before, what do you imagine shaped their prayers in this instance?

What does this passage teach us about God's peace?

What does it truly mean to "take God at his Word?" How should that result in confidence for believers despite what is happening in the world around us?

**Be > Do**

### Thursday

*In your journal, spend some time considering the following:*

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

**Do**

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#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor  
**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor  
**Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor  
**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students & Discipleship  
**Katie Austin:** Children's Ministry Coordinator

#### Contact Us

336.599.1982  
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com  
www.westwoodfamily.org

#### Upcoming Events

May 5 - Tamales & Tacos Fundraiser  
May 14 - Building & Grounds Committee  
May 16-18 - NC Disaster Relief Trip  
May 17 - MLM Baccalaureate Service  
May 26 - Directory Pictures  
May 27 - Church Office Closed

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