

- I. King Herod Strikes at Christ's Church (12:1-4)

- II. Christ the King Defends His Church (12:5-19)
 - A. Christ Works Through the Power of Prayer
 1. Motivation: God's Sovereignty and Christ's Reign (Acts 4:24-28)

 2. Manner: Earnest and Persistent (12:5; Luke 22:24; Rom 12:12; Luke 18:1-8)

 3. Outcome: Peace and Deliverance (Matt 6:34; Ps 4:8; Phil 4:6-7)

- III. Christ the King Strikes Herod: He Conquers All His and Our Enemies (12:20-25; Ps 2:9-12; 4:29-31; 8:1, 4)

WSC Q26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

“Here then were two communities, the world and the church, arrayed against one another, each wielding an appropriate weapon. On the one side was the authority of Herod, the power of the sword and the security of the prison. On the other side, the church turned to prayer, which is the only power which the powerless possess.”
—John Stott

Reflection and Application Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. How does Christ fulfill his office as king and head of his church?
2. How does Christ work through prayer?
3. How can you grow in prayer? What would motivate you to greater prayerfulness?