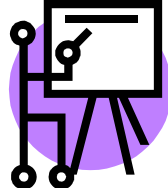


# MANNER OF TEACHING



Those who are involved in Bible teaching often find it necessary to report the mistakes and sins of God's people in past history. This is done to help present day believers avoid the same mistakes and sins. This is a valid way to teach the Scriptures and has doubtless helped many Christians prosper in the faith.

But I learned of a personal mistake in teaching Scripture quite recently. My mistake was in my manner of teaching even though the content was quite acceptable. I'll explain.

In addressing a small group at a Nursing Home, I referred to the events recorded in Acts Chapter 12. This chapter is primarily concerned with Herod Agrippa 1 and his harassment and persecution of some of those from the church. After King Herod had James (the brother of John) killed by sword, he had Peter arrested and imprisoned. The people of the church who knew Peter prayed for him and an angel of God miraculously came to Peter's aid and escorted him out of the prison.

When Peter was free, he went to the house where the church was praying for him at that very moment. Peter had to persist in gaining an audience with the people in the house because the saints inside could not believe it was really Peter trying to speak with them.

My point is this: As I taught the content of this account in Acts 12, I began to make light of the saints who prayed for Peter but who found it difficult to realize that he really was out of prison. I was, as I realized later, literally talking about those dear saints in a manner of ridicule. It got some hearty laughs but the next morning the Holy Spirit made me know that He was not pleased with my manner of teaching on the subject. It could have been taught with more respect for those saints. Besides, would I have reacted any better to the situation than they did?

Believe me, as soon as I was corrected by the Holy spirit, I immediately confessed my sin until I knew I was forgiven. Pleasing God in the manner as well as the content of whatever I teach is not legalism. It is wisdom.

## FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Discuss the insight regarding our manner of teaching. Can you think of any other examples that may apply.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY (INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP) TOPIC: TEACHING

### Those able to teach:

Parents: Deuteronomy 11:19

<b>Levites:</b>	<b>Leviticus 10:11</b>
<b>Ancestors:</b>	<b>Jeremiah 9:14</b>
<b>Disciples:</b>	<b>Matthew 28:19,20</b>
<b>Older women:</b>	<b>Titus 2:3</b>
<b>Nature:</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 11:14</b>

**Objects of Teaching:**

<b>God's way:</b>	<b>Psalm 27:11</b>
<b>God's path:</b>	<b>Psalm 25:4,5</b>
<b>God's law:</b>	<b>Psalm 119:12,26,66</b>
<b>God's will:</b>	<b>Psalm 143:10</b>

**Perversion of teaching by:**

<b>False prophets:</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:15</b>
<b>False priests:</b>	<b>Micah 3:11</b>
<b>Traditionalists:</b>	<b>Matthew 15:9</b>
<b>False teachers:</b>	<b>1 Timothy 4:1-3</b>
<b>Judaizers:</b>	<b>Acts 15:1</b>
<b>False believers:</b>	<b>2 Timothy 4:3,4</b>