

MORE POWERFUL THAN PRISON BARS

The Acts of the Apostles - Part 26

Acts 12:1-17

October 12, 2008

*“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end
is the way of death.”*

Proverbs 14:12 (NASB)

“We are looking at things as they are outwardly.”

2 Corinthians 10:7a (NASB)

1. The _____

*“Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who
belonged to the church, in order to mistreat them. And he had
James the brother of John put to death with a sword. And when
he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.
Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread.”*

Acts 12:1-3 (NASB)

They saw three things:

- Peter was _____.

*“And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to
arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened
Bread.” Acts 12:3c (NASB)*

- Peter was _____.

*“And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering
him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the
Passover to bring him out before the people.”*

Acts 12:4 (NASB)

*“And on the very night when Herod was about to bring him
forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with
two chains; and guards in front of the door were watching over
the prison.” Acts 12:6 (NASB)*

- Peter was _____.

“...intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people.” (v. 4c)

“And on the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward...” (v. 6a)

Two things left out:

- Peter was _____.

“...Peter was sleeping between two soldiers...” (v. 6b)

- The _____ was _____.

“So Peter was kept in prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church of God.” Acts 12:5 (NASB)

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.” 2 Corinthians 10:4 (NIV)

2. God’s _____

“And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter’s side and roused him, saying, ‘Get up quickly.’ And his chains fell off his hands.”

Acts 12:7 (NASB)

“And the angel said to him, ‘Gird yourself and put on your sandals.’ And he did so. And he said to him, ‘Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.’ And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.”

Acts 12:8-9 (NASB)

“And when they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter came to himself, he said, ‘Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth

His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.’ And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.” Acts 12:10-12 (NASB)

3. The believer’s _____

“And when he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. And when she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.”

Acts 12:13-14 (NASB)

“And they said to her, ‘You are out of your mind!’ But she kept insisting that it was so. And they kept saying, ‘It is his angel.’”

Acts 12:15 (NASB)

“But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed.” Acts 12:16 (NASB)

“But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, ‘Report these things to James and the brethren.’ And he departed and went to another place.” Acts 12:17 (NASB)

Two lessons in conclusion:

- We are all faced with a series of _____.

To say it another way: We are all faced with _____ brilliantly _____ as impossible situations.

- If there is to be a _____; it will take a _____.