**Acts 12:5-19**

**“Peter, the Freed Slave” 02/18/24**

**Sermon Goal:** *The purpose of today’s sermon is simply that we would be convinced of the need to live as we are. To be who we ar e.*

Recap of Acts 12:1-5: Drinking from the Cup of Jesus

**SLIDE 1**

(I’m switching back to the NKJV, just because)

*“Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church.****2****Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.****3****And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.****4****So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.* ***5****Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”*

**SLIDE 2**

**Acts 12:1-5 Points of Emphasis/Application**

**1. Understand that Persecution of Christians is Guaranteed**

**2 Timothy 3:12 - ”***Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

**2. Trust the Lord with the Life He has given You**

**1 Peter 3:14 –** *But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.”*

**3.** **Be Willing to Drink from Jesus’ Cup**

**Mark 10:39 – “***So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;****40****but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.”*

**SLIDE 3**

**Meditate on this Reality...**

**Galatians 2:20 –** *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”*

**So, I ask, Brothers and Sisters, Crucified Ones (Christians), “What are we protecting?”**

**SLIDE 4**

**Acts 12:5-19**

*“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.****6****And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.****7****Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands.****8****Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.”****9****So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.****10****When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.*

***11****And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”*

***12****So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.****13****And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.****14****When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.****15****But they said to her, “You are beside yourself!” Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, “It is his angel.”*

***16****Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.****17****But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren.” And he departed and went to another place.*

***18****Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter.****19****But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death.*

*And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.”*

**Verse by Verse:**

**V. 5** *“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 6***“And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.”*

**Notes:**

**Vs. 7-8** *“Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands.****8****Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 9-10** *“So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.****10****When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 11-***“And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 12-15**

*:So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.****13****And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer.****14****When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.****15****But they said to her, “You are beside yourself!” Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, “It is his angel.”*

**Notes:**

**V. 16-17**

*“Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.****17****But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren.” And he departed and went to another place.”*

**V. 18-19**

*“Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter.****19****But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.”*

**Notes:**

**Personal Prison...**

**SLIDE 5**

**Acts 12:5-19 Points of Emphasis/Application**

**1. Appeal to God for Your Fellow Saints in Distress**

**Ephesians 6:18 –** *“...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—"*

**2. Abandon Yourself Completely to the Lord Jesus Christ**

**Matthew 16:26 –**

*“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

**3. Accept and Welcome the Will of God in your Life**

**Philippians 4:11-13 –** *“...for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

**SLIDE 6**

**Food for Thought...**

“Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Everyone has noticed how hard it is to turn our thoughts to God when everything is going well with us... While what we call 'our own life' remains agreeable, we will not surrender it to Him. What, then, can God do in our interests but make 'our own life' less agreeable to us, and take away the plausible sources of false happiness?”

- C.S. Lewis

**“Don’t talk about it, be about it.”**