

PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING

PETER, PRISON & PRAYER

MAY 1, 2023

Philippians 4:6 NLT Don't worry about anything; instead, *pray about everything*.

Romans 12:12 NIV Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, *faithful in prayer*.

Acts 5:41-42

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 11:25b

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 12:1-2

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

Acts 12:3-4

When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

References:

Acts 10:34-35; 11:18

Matthew 4:21-22

Luke 9:54-56

Mark 10:35-39

1 Peter 4:8

Psalm 4:8

1

FIRST AND FOREMOST, WE MUST REMEMBER GOD PETER TO BE ARRESTED

Acts 12:5-6

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

But you, LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high. I call out to the LORD, and He answers me from His holy mountain. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. **Psalm 3:3-5**

2

TRUE REST OCCURS WHEN WE TRUST IN GOD'S CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF

Acts 12:7-9

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." **Matthew 4:19**

Acts 12:10-11

They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

Acts 12:12-15

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

3

GOD DOESN'T BELONG IN A _____

Acts 12:16-17

But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

Acts 12:18-19a

In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Acts 12:19b-23

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there. He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply. On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

4

PRIDE IS AN _____ AND WILL COME UNDER THE LORD'S JUST CONDEMNATION

Acts 12:24

But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.

"I am the LORD; that is My name! I will not yield My glory to another or My praise to idols." **Isaiah 42:8**

Persecution didn't hurt the church at all

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**