



Title | Breakout
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 12:1-17
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | January 31, 2021

Sermon Notes

Acts 12:1 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. **2** He killed James the brother of John with the sword, **3** and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. **4** And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. **5** So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. **6** Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. **7** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. **8** And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." **9** And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. **10** When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. **11** When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

2 Peter 1:3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 12:1-17. In the story, no one expects God to deliver Peter in this way. Why not? Does this reflect a low view of God? Why or why not?

Tuesday:

Notice the contrast of secular power and spiritual power in Acts 12:5. Why is prayer important? If prayer helped to deliver Peter, why didn't it deliver James (Acts 12:2)?

Wednesday:

According to Acts 12:9, was Peter expecting to be delivered? And if he wasn't, is that a bad thing? Why or why not? In light of Acts 9:36-43, do you think Peter believed God was able to deliver him?

Thursday:

According to Acts 12:5, 12, believers in the church prayed for Peter, likely for his deliverance. But, according to Acts 12:13-17, all but Rhoda did not initially believe that Peter had been delivered? Why not?

Friday:

Read 2 Peter 1:3. This was written by Peter himself some 20 years after the jailbreak in Acts 12. What does this suggest our perspective should be when faced with difficulties?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, when faced with difficulties,
remind me of the truth: whether you
deliver me from them or not, you have
given me everything I need in Christ.
Thank you! Amen.