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GLOBAL SERVICE ASSOCIATES • JULY 27

PETER, PETER PRISON DEFEATER

ACTS 12:1-19

INTRO:

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

Acts 12:1-3

I. WHY IS JAMES KILLED AND NOT PETER ?

Were there just not enough people praying for him? Why did God allow that to happen? Those are tough questions, and they mirror some of our own, when it comes to injustices, and why do bad things happen to good people, right?

II. GOD RESPONDS TO THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE

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. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Acts 12:4-5

“Earnest”: The Greek verb here is **ektenos** which is used to describe someone stretching out all they can for something.

III. PETER IS RESCUED

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.

Acts 12:7

CONCLUSIONS:

IV. WHAT’S YOUR NEXT STEP?

- A. What in your life seems impossible for you to overcome, right now? What do your chains look like? What could be holding you back from true freedom?
- B. How does Peter’s Story inspire you to trust God with what seems currently unattainable?



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Upcoming Reading Assignment for Next Week: Acts 13:1-52