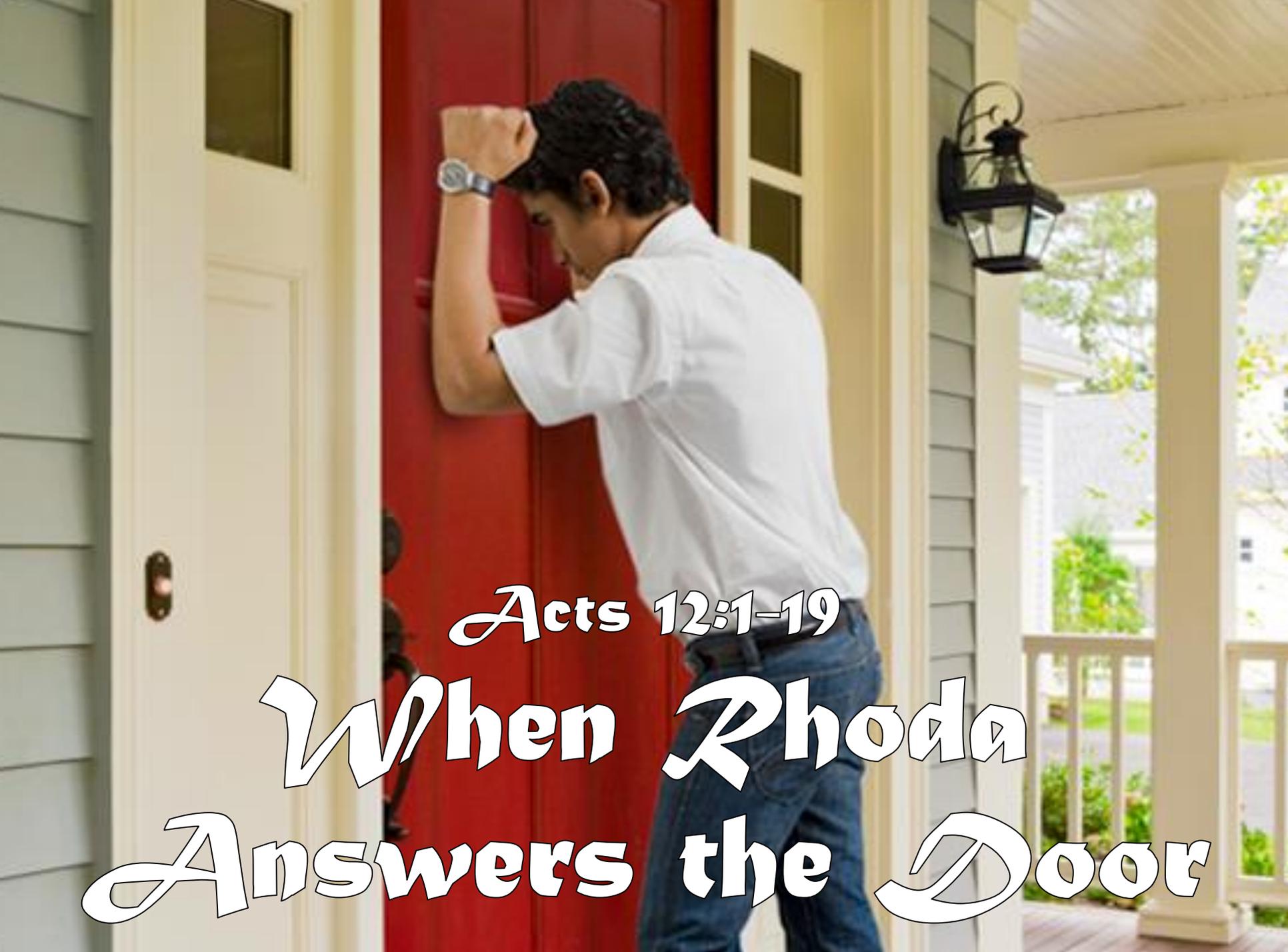




**TRUTH IS
STRANGER
THAN FICTION**



Acts 12:1-19

When Rhoda Answers the Door

About that time King Herod cruelly attacked some who belonged to the church, and he killed James, John's brother, with the sword.

When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter too, during the days of Unleavened Bread. After the arrest, he put him in prison and assigned four squads of four soldiers each to guard him,

intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but prayer was being made earnestly to God for him by the church. On the night before Herod was to bring him out for execution, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, while the sentries in front of the door guarded the prison.

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke him up and said, "Quick, get up!" Then the chains fell off his wrists. "Get dressed," the angel told him, "and put on your sandals." And he did so. "Wrap your cloak around you," he told him, "and follow me." So he went out and followed, and he did not

know that what took place through the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. After they passed the first and second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened to them by itself. They went outside and passed one street, and immediately the angel left him.

Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from Herod’s grasp and from all that the Jewish people expected.”

When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many had assembled and were praying. He knocked at the door in the gateway,

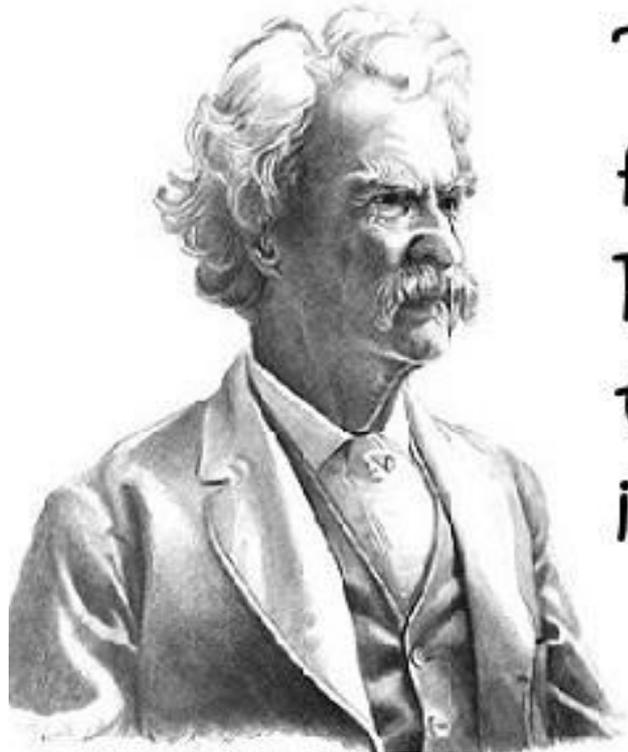
and a servant named Rhoda came to answer. She recognized Peter's voice, and because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gateway. "You're crazy!" they told her. But she kept insisting that it was true. Then they said, "It's his angel!" Peter, however, kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and

saw him, they were astounded. Motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he explained to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. "Report these things to James and the brothers," he said. Then he departed and went to a different place. At daylight, there was a great commotion among the soldiers as to what could have become of Peter.

After Herod had searched and did not find him, he interrogated the guards and ordered their execution. Then Herod went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.



**TRUTH IS
STRANGER
THAN FICTION**



Truth is stranger than
fiction, but it is because
Fiction is obliged to stick
to possibilities; Truth
isn't.

Mark Twain

Getting Up

Sometimes we will find ourselves on the wrong side of **POPULARITY**

God will often push us towards **FREEDOM**

He will **ALWAYS** lead the way

Opening Up

Sometimes **RECOGNIZING** a situation is not enough

Not **RECOGNIZING** a situation is always **WRONG**

Sometimes what the Lord has in store is on a **TIME TABLE** & requires **ACTION**

What About You?

Are you shackled?

Who is knocking at your door?