

God Delivers Peter: Acts 12

Read: Acts 12:1-19

This account is very important for many reasons. But the **six** that we will primarily focus on today are;

#1 Experiencing _____ is not an indication of God's _____.

Peter was arrested in Acts 4 as well as here in Acts 12. But it is clear that these difficulties were not because the Lord was disapproving of Peter or his ministry. In Acts 2:14, 41 it was Peter's boldness and moving speech that led 3,000 to the Lord and in Acts 3:12 & 4:4 another speech led 2,000 to the Lord. No one else in church history can claim those types of immediate and dramatic results!

So clearly; experiencing **difficulty** is not necessarily an indication of God's **disapproval** of your life or ministry.

If anything, scripture implies the opposite... **that great difficulty is usually the _____ to great impact.**

#2 God loves to put believers into situations that are _____ impossible...so that _____ power can shine through.

It is very obvious in the way that Luke wrote this account that he wanted to stress the level of security that was placed around Peter. Peter was clearly in a humanly impossible situation. There was no way that Peter or any other group of people could rescue him.

1. He was put in **prison** (v4)
2. Four **squads** of soldiers to guard him (v4)
3. Sleeping between two **soldiers** (v6)
4. Bound with two **chains** (v6)
5. **Sentries guarding** the door (v6)

#3 God has ordained that the _____ of believers can, and will _____ the course of human history.

It is very obvious in the way that Luke wrote this account that he wanted to stress the importance of prayer and its impact on Peter's release.

...but earnest **prayer** for him was made to God by the church. (v5)

...where many were gathered together and were praying. (v12)

#4 What is impossible for man is _____ impossible for God.

It is clear that it was impossible for Peter to free himself...and that God was the one who freed him in the end.

an angel of the Lord stood next to him (v7)

And the chains fell off his hands. (v7)

the iron gate...opened for them of its own accord (v10)

#5 Do not expect to easily _____ what God is up to.

Both Peter and the believers initially did not immediately recognize what God was doing.

He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. (v9) They said to her, "You are out of your mind." ...and saying, "It is his angel!" (v15)

#6 Never doubt that a small group of _____, praying _____ can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!

It is very obvious in the way that Luke wrote this account that he wanted to stress the importance of believers meeting together and its impact on Peter's release.

Personal Notes:

Follow up Questions:

- Have you ever thought that difficulties must mean God's disapproval of you/your life?
- Have you ever seen God put you into a situation that you thought was humanly impossible? In what ways did God's power shine through and overcome your weakness?
- What are some of the biggest/impossible prayers that you have seen God answer?
- Are you involved in a Small Group of believers? If yes, what has been the biggest impact of that group? If not, why not? Would you be interesting in joining one?