

“MORE POWERFUL THAN PRISON BARS”

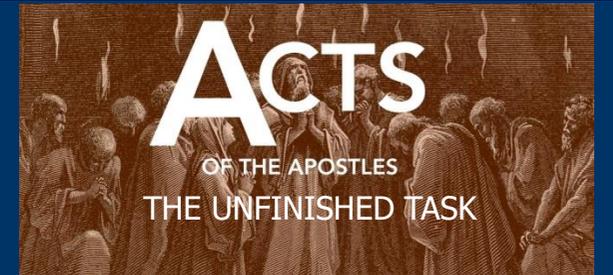
(Acts 12:1-17)

Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 25

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: August 18, 2019

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION:



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DEAD END = IMPOSSIBLE



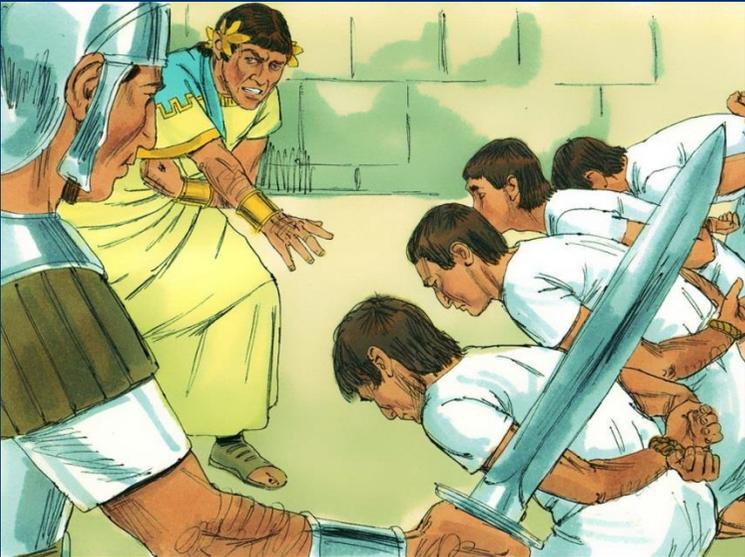
INTRODUCTION:



"You are looking
only on the
surface of things."

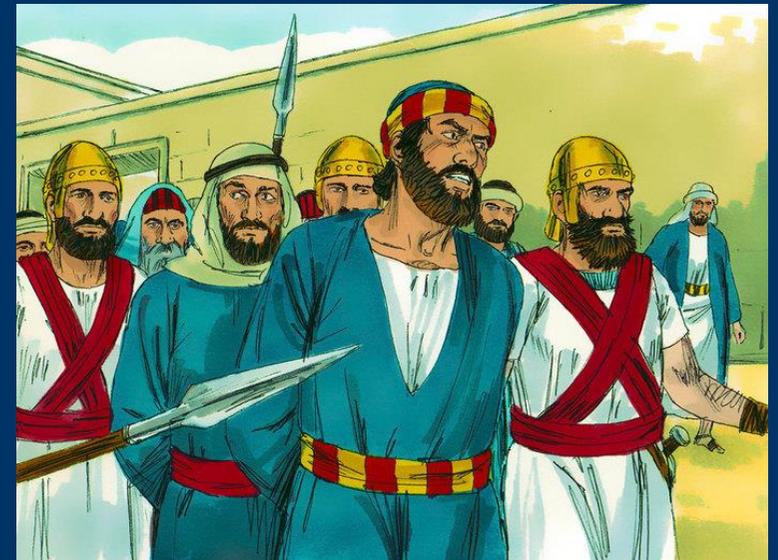
2 Cor 10:3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

I. INITIAL ORIENTATION



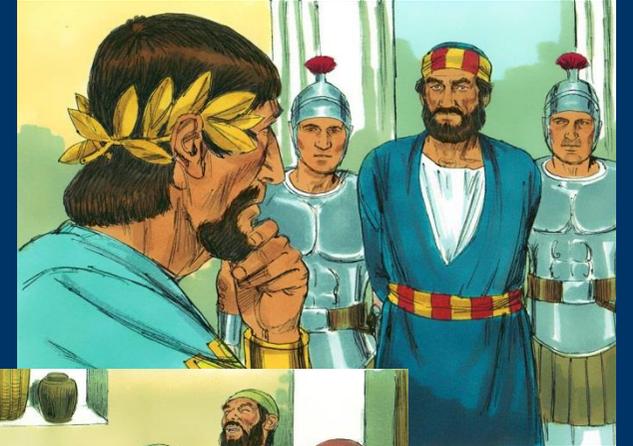
***Acts 12:1** It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.*

***Acts 12:3** 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.*

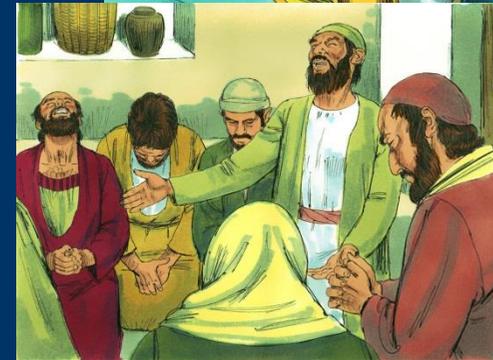


II. IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION

Acts 12:4 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.



Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.



Acts 12:6 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.

III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

A) *Sudden Appearance*

Acts 12:7 *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.*



III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

A) Sudden Appearance

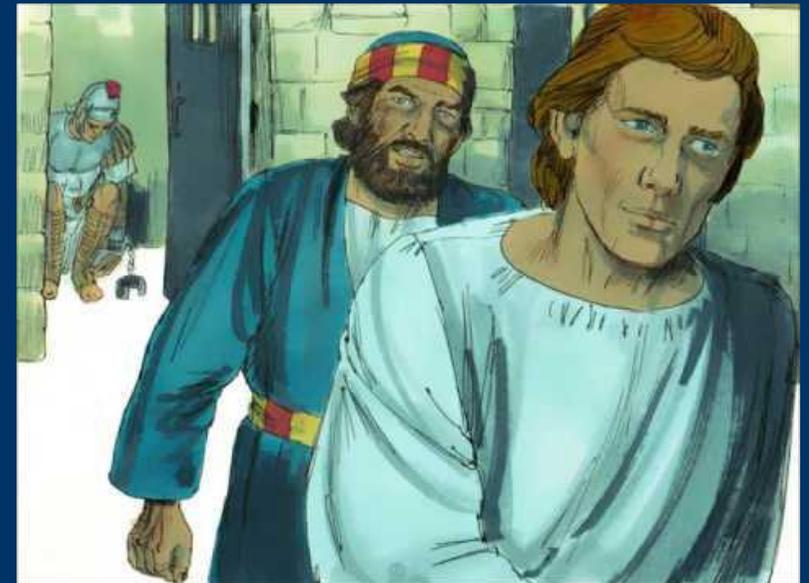
Acts 12:8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.



III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

B) Unexplainable Deliverance

Acts 12:10 *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.*



III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

B) Unexplainable Deliverance

Acts 12:11 *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."*



III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

C) *Natural Reaction*

Acts 12:12 *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.*

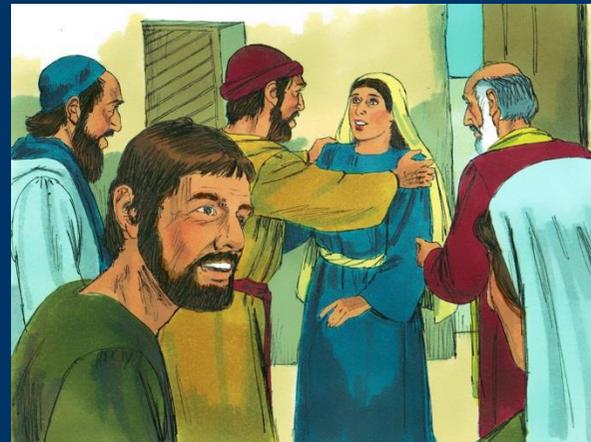


III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

C) Natural Reaction

Acts 12:13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. **14** When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, **"Peter is at the door!"**

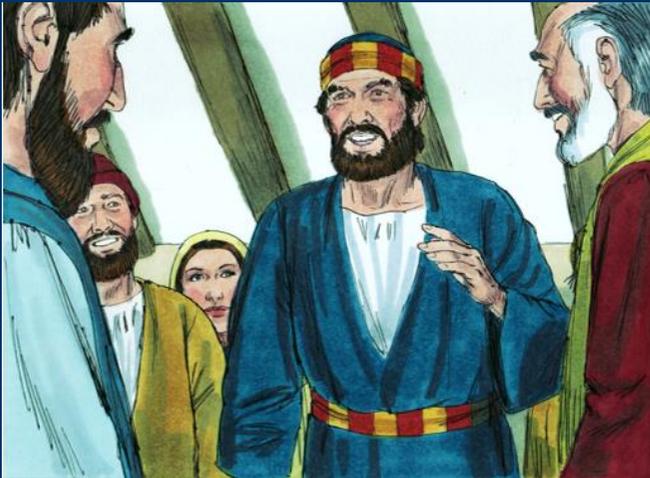
Acts 12:15 "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, **"It must be his angel."**



III. MIRACULOUS INTERVENTION

C) *Natural Reaction*

Acts 12:16 *But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.*



Acts 12:17 *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.*

CONCLUSION:



The story of Peter's deliverance reminds us of two principles that will keep our heads up when circumstances appear down.

A) We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.

B) If there is to be a solution, it will take divine intervention.





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have we ever been caught in an impossible situation and think that it's a dead end? What was it like and how do you feel? Share an example of your encounter and what did you do.*
- 2. Who was King Herod Agrippa I? Why was he such a threat to Christians in Jerusalem?*
- 3. When Peter was arrested by King Herod, why did his friends think the situation was impossible?*
- 4. Why was he able to sleep calmly through the night knowing his death was imminent?*
- 5. How did God deliver Peter from a highly secured prison and what was the weapon employed by the believers in impossible situation?*



Scripture References:

Acts 12:1 – 17