

Greater by Far

Acts 12:1-19

The difficulty level of things

“We can do this” It should _____

“That will be hard!” Hard but maybe _____

“Not a chance!!” _____

In: Relationships, Within my own heart and life, Church

What seemingly _____ thing do you long to see happen?

Acts 12:1-19

1-2: James (apostle) was _____ by Herod

James was one of Jesus' _____

Herod used the _____ of Christians to protect his power

3-4: Peter (head apostle) was arrested with plans to _____

Peter was most _____ leader of Jewish Christianity

Arresting and publicly killing Peter would please the Jewish

_____, and perhaps _____ Christianity

Peter had _____ escaped from prison before, so security was as tight as could be (Acts 5:18-20)

5: Peter was in _____ while the church _____

Contrast:

Herod's _____

Church's _____, depending upon God's _____

This was a _____ for the church

6-10: Peter (half asleep) was _____ by an angel

Peter was not _____ it → deep sleep!

High _____:

This was _____: Peter was just keeping up!

Peter didn't even _____ that it was happening

11: Peter finally _____ he was actually free!

Only after it was over did he _____ it

God's _____ rescued Peter from Herod's _____

This was _____ plan and _____ action, not Peter's

12-16: The church slowly came to _____ it too

They prayed without _____ Peter's release

Yet God _____ anyway!

Like resurrection: first witnesses were _____, and the _____ didn't believe them (“You're crazy!”)

17: Peter explained _____, and departed

Tell this story to others! (perhaps the _____...)

God is the only _____!

James (brother of Jesus) was becoming the _____ of the church in Jerusalem

18-19: Herod killed the _____, and departed

Herod had to “_____”

Emphatic: these guards didn't help Peter _____

The Big Idea:

God's power is _____ by far

than all _____ (human, natural, supernatural) that would resist Him

and than the faith and expectations (whether _____ or _____) of His people

Ephesians 3:20-21

Application:

Have _____ in God

God is able to do _____ more!

God can make a _____ when there is no _____.

Have faith in God rather than...

The God who declared the universe into existence, and raised His Son from the dead, can turn any _____ into _____ and _____

Express our faith in...

Prayer

Prayer is a key way to _____ (and _____) our conviction that God's action is what we need

Obedience

Peter was told to stand _____ the chains fell off

Sometimes God's actions happen _____ we obey, not before

Often God acts _____ our simple obedience

High expectations, _____ to God

God is able, and He tells us to ask boldly and with faith

Yet Peter was _____, while James the apostle was _____

So pray: “You are able! So I ask. And I will humbly accept your _____.”

Seeing God's _____

We tend not to _____ what we think can't _____

We can miss...

Reflection

Where do you long to see the hand of God? How will you show faith?