



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

Miracle Territory

From the Series,
"MiraculoUS"

Acts 12:1-18

Preached 2/15/15

Meadow Baptist Church

1. The Enemy: Hard At Work (1-4)

"1 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. 2 He killed James the brother of John with the sword, 3 and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. 4 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."

- a. Herod stretched forth his hands to oppress the church (1)
- b. Herod killed James (2)
- c. Herod proceeded to take Peter (3)
- d. Herod apprehended Peter and put him in prison (4)

2. The Church: Deep In Prayer (5)

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

- a. Peter's imprisonment brought fear - *who would be next?*
- b. Peter's imprisonment brought confusion - *how could this happen when they were doing the right thing?*
- c. Peter's imprisonment brought about continuous prayer - *all dilemmas demand prayer*

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3. The Christian: Completely At Peace (6)

"Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison."

- a. Time was running out - "...when Herod was about to bring him out (for death)"
- b. Escape was impossible - Peter was surrounded by two soldiers and chained with 2 chains
- c. Peter was at peace enough to go to sleep - He had surrendered his life to God. He chose not to worry.

4. The Lord: Right On Time (7-11)

7 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. 8 And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

- a. God sent help - "...an angel of the Lord stood next to him..." * God sent illumination - "...a light shone in his cell..."
- b. God sent instruction - "Get up quickly...Dress yourself and put on your sandals...Wrap your cloak around you and follow me..."
- c. God sent freedom - "...the chains fell off his hands..." * God sent a miracle (8-11) - Surreal, Supernatural, Surefire - the guards, the gate, the getaway

5. The Believers: Full Of Wonder (12-17)

12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13 And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. 15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" 16 But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. 17 But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

- a. They had been asking God to intervene (12) - "...where many were gathered together praying..."
- b. They obviously had not been expecting an immediate answer (15) - "You are out of your mind...it is his angel!"
- c. God was not limited by their less than amazing faith (16-17) - "...he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison..."