

ACTS - FROM RESURRECTION TO REVELATION

Lesson 20

Review: *With the Gospel not only reaching the "uttermost", but also the "guttermost" at Antioch, the next wave of persecution strikes at Jerusalem with the martyrdom of James, the Apostle and the arrest of Peter by Herod.*

PRINCIPLES FOR PRAYING FOR THOSE IN THE PRISONS OF PERIL

I. Perceptions That Can Hold Us In The Prison Of Prayerlessness - Acts 12:1-5

- A) The perception of PUNISHMENT (under God's discipline)
- B) The perception of PRECEDENT (previous outcomes dictate all)
- C) The perception of personal POWER (If his aren't working, mine won't)
- D) The perception of pessimistic PROSPECTS (Not even God can help now)
Maybe the common prison with a couple of keepers, but this is different. - Acts 5:17-19
Maximum Security = 16 soldiers; chained to 2 of them, two keepers, iron gate, 2 wards

The great lie - Easy problems are easy for God, and hard problems are hard for Him.

II. Prayer Will Turn Prisons Of Peril Into Places Of Rest - Acts 12:6

- A) Rest is the result of a spiritual PEACE (Knowing you are right with God)
- B) Rest is the result of a spiritual PERCEPTION (Knowing that God is in control)

Two possible perceptions that gave Peter rest...

- 1) It was God's will/time for him to DIE - John 21:18-22

Jesus had predicted that James would "drink of the same cup" - Matt. 20

Jesus had predicted Peter as dying to glorify God being led by another

- 2) It was not God's will/time for him to DIE

Jesus said he would be old intimating it would be possibly a crucifixion

- C) Rest is the result of a personal POWERLESSNESS

III. Prayer Will Turn Prisoners Of Peril Into People Of Release - Acts 12:7-18

- A) The light enters into Peter's "HABITATION" - vs. 7
- B) The light reveals that it is not time to PERISH - vs. 8
- C) The light reveals the provision of ESCAPE - vs. 9-10
- D) The light reveals the provision is of GOD - vs. 11-18

** Sometimes to our own surprise*

** Sometimes to the shock of those who prayed*

** Certainly to the confusion of those who don't know God*