

God makes a way
Acts 12:1-17

I. Intro

- A. There are many challenges in our world
- B. Some seem to be impossible situations, problems without solutions
- C. But God can work all things for good.

II. Text

A. Verses 1-5

- 1. The Persecution is growing
- 2. James killed by the sword
- 3. During the spring feasts, so possible a year after the crucifixion
- 4. Peter imprisoned
- 5. Prayer meeting started

B. Verses 6-11

- 1. The great escape
- 2. What a scene!
 - a) God delivered Peter
 - b) God

C. Verses 12-17

- 1. One of my favorite stories in all the Bible because of its humor
- 2. But this is something truly powerful and

III. Point

A. Questions

- 1. Questions:
 - a) Why are they called apartments, when they are all together
 - b) Why do we park in a driveway and drive on a parkway
- 2. Many of our questions in life may go unanswered this side of heaven.
 - a) We often ask why bad things happen
 - b) We live in a fallen world and things are really bad
 - c) It is a reminder of the mission that is before us
- 3. One such question is generated from this chapter: Why was James killed and Peter rescued?
 - a) Difficulty was a part of God's plan, and that plan does not always go by our mandates.
 - b) The difficulties the early church faced actually served to multiply the gospel to all the known world.
 - c) The persecution that was focused in and around Israel caused those who believe to do the work that would bring hope to the nations.

B. Problems

- 1. Problems come in several categories: Natural occurring, Self imposed, caused by others. Good problems, and bad problems
 - a) Here is the thing: problems need solutions
 - b) When we encounter a problem, we must go to the Lord first for the solution.
- 2. Prison, Guards, Chains, dictators
- 3. Things looked grim, because they were grim
- 4. But not something that couldn't be handled by Holy God.
- 5. A problem,
 - a) A problem is actually an opportunity
 - b) An opportunity for God to accomplish His plan in a way that makes the desired impact.

C. Solutions

- 1. A solution came, but may be different than you think.

2. The church was praying, and Peter shows up, they didn't expect him, but there he was.
3. Notice verse 17:
 - a) Peter said to send to James and the brothers
 - (1) James is believed to be the Pastor of the church in Jerusalem
 - (2) The brothers were probably the other Apostles
 - b) That means this prayer meeting was taking place without the leadership being there
 - c) EVERY PERSON IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS A MINISTER WITH DIRECT CONNECTION TO GOD!
4. Prayer is the work
 - a) You can't work hard enough to overcome a lack of prayer
 - b) Prayer is a declaration of dependance on God
5. Lessons learned from this story:
 - a) Pray with expectation
 - b) Pray with anticipation
 - c) Pray earnestly
 - d) Pray with the church, with the people
 - e) Pray

IV. Close

- A. If you came to church brokenhearted, tell God
- B. If you have a request of God, Ask Him.
- C. If you need refreshing, tell Him.
- D. Go to God, expect and anticipate Him to work.