

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.