

ACTS: Advance “Where There’s a Will, There’s a Way” (Acts 12)

For the week of March 13, 2016

Testimony

One last time: Have a volunteer share their testimony (5-10 minutes) if there is still anyone who has not had the opportunity to share. Also, have your group discuss why it was important and helpful to hear testimonies from their group members.

Tell the Story

Tell the story of Acts 12. Then read the passage. Discuss any missing details from the telling of the story. Finally, rebuild the story as a group.

Acts 12:1-4

1. Clearly, God is almighty, yet in this instance He does not prevent the untimely deaths of some of His servants (i.e. James). How would you explain this to others, especially those who teach that it is always God's will to deliver us from sickness, tragedy and death?
2. James is the first apostle to die, yet his death is mentioned in only one sentence. Why does death need to be viewed from God's eternal perspective, not from our temporal perspective?

Acts 12:5-19

3. Clearly, God is almighty and He can easily deliver His servant (Peter) out of the most secure prison that Herod could devise. How is God most glorified when we are most helpless and totally dependent on Him?
4. Why does God often wait until the eleventh hour to deliver us from our circumstances?
5. Prayer can be viewed as a mystery. Why do we need to pray when God already knows our needs?

Acts 12:20-23

6. Clearly, God is almighty and He can easily remove the most powerful and proud human leaders when it is His time to do so. Why was Herod "removed" by God? Did Herod know enough about God that he should have seen God's hand in Peter's deliverance and realized that he was fighting against God? If so, why didn't he?
7. Read Isaiah 42:8 and 46:11. To seek glory for ourselves is to declare war against God. God will not give His glory to another. Describe ways in which we seek glory for ourselves. What would be your counsel to a newer believer about this subject?

Acts 12:24-25

8. Clearly, God is almighty and His gospel cannot be stopped by any opposition. It would seem, realistically, that the world's major religions have stopped the penetration of the gospel into much of the world for centuries. How then is the gospel unstoppable?

Acts 12:1-25

- Let's summarize what this incident with Peter tells us about prayer.
9. In verse 5 it describes the church making "earnest" prayer for him. What does that look like?
 10. How does prayer have power over obstacles (vv. 6-11)?
 11. Read verses 12-17. What do you truly believe about the power of prayer? Are you similar to this story where prayer was strong enough for God to work but the people praying did not have enough faith to believe they were answered? Do you believe that intercessory prayer has this kind of power (see 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; Ephesians 3:20-21)?

Pray

Pray for our Easter weekend and that many hear and respond to the Good News. Pray for all the details for our Good Friday service, Saturday night at the Park and our Easter service.

Final Thought

Whether the almighty God delivers us from persecution or we die for our faith, we must commit ourselves wholly to the furtherance of His gospel. Whatever the cost, may we all commit ourselves to the cause of the unstoppable gospel of Jesus Christ!