

Peril, Poshness and Prayer

8/31/14

The Impact of Prayer...

On Those in Peril

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church, in order to mistreat them.

² And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

³ And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

⁴ And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people.

⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

⁶ And on the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.

⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and roused him, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.

⁸ And the angel said to him, "Gird 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 continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

¹⁰ And when they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street; and immediately the angel departed from him.

¹¹ And when Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

¹² And when he realized *this*, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

¹³ And when he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer.

¹⁴ And when she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

¹⁵ And 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 had opened *the door*, 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 led him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

On Those in Poshness

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers *as to* what could have become of Peter.

¹⁹ And when Herod had searched for him and had not found him, he examined the guards and ordered that they be led away *to execution*. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea and was spending time there.

²⁰ Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain, they were asking for peace, because their country was fed by the king's country.

²¹ And on an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and *began* delivering an address to them.

²² And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

²³ And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

²⁴ But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with *them* John, who was also called Mark.

On Those willing to live in Peril

Acts 13:1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

² And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

⁵ And when they reached Salamis, they *began* to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

⁶ And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,

⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

⁸ But Elymas the magician (for thus his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

⁹ But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him,

¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

¹¹ "And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

¹³ Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

¹⁴ But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

¹⁵ And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

¹⁶ And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand, he said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

¹⁷ "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.

¹⁸ "And for a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.

¹⁹ "And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance-- *all of which took* about four hundred and fifty years.

²⁰ "And after these things He gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet.

²¹ "And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

²² "And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'

²³ "From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,

²⁴ after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

²⁵ "And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not *He*. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶ "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the word of this salvation is sent out.

²⁷ "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *these* by condemning *Him*.

²⁸ "And though they found no ground for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed.

²⁹ "And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.

³⁰ "But God raised Him from the dead;

³¹ and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

³² "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

³³ that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.'

³⁴ "*And as for the fact* that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy *and sure blessings* of David.'

³⁵ "Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*, 'Thou wilt not allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.'

³⁶ "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay;

³⁷ but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.

³⁸ "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

⁴⁰ "Take heed therefore, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon *you*:

⁴¹ 'Behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish; For I am accomplishing a work in your days, A work which you will never believe, though someone should describe it to you.'"