



Campbell Chapel

2019; CAMPBELL CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
SERMON TRANSCRIPTION

Prayer Intercession for Others

Sunday, February 17, 2019

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1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.

Acts 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Acts 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Acts 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Acts 12:11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

There are things in life that we just don't understand sometimes. Why things happen. Why things work the way they do. As I read to you, from the book of 1 Peter, he said this...

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

We believe that. Don't we? We know that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers. The Bible tells us here in the book of Acts, and this is Luke writing. He is telling us here about some things. He mentions here about "Herod the king, how he stretches forth his hands to vex certain of the churches." This Herod is the grandson of the Herod that commanded all the babies that were in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus to be killed. You remember that story. Don't you?

Do you remember that story, when Jesus was born—you know. This was his grandson. If you read about the Herod's; they were a murderous family. They were very very ruthless. They killed at will. They murdered at will. They slaughtered at will.

They did something here. The Bible says that "he killed James, the brother of John with the sword." Now this is—I don't know how long, for sure, after Pentecost, how long since the church has been born and Jesus was crucified. However, it has not been very long. It has not been very long at all.

Herod here, wants to please the Jews. He wants to do something that will help him with them and make him more accepted to them. Therefore, the Jews, did not like Peter, James and John and all these people that were living in what they called the Jesus way, or following this Nazarene. They did not like them. Therefore, Herod decided he was going to kill some of them and he did. He killed James, the brother of John.

These two guys—do you remember James and John? We know that they were fishermen. We know that they knew Peter very well. They were buddies. They were pals. If you remember the story and reading the story, it was James' and John's brother that came to Jesus one day and said, "Hey, I want my sons—when you get to your kingdom—I want one of them to sit on your right-hand side and one of them to sit on your left." Do you remember that story? Jesus made the statement; "Those will sit on there that they have been prepared for." He begins to ask them a couple of questions. Can you drink of the wine that I shall drink? Can you be baptized with the baptism that I baptize with." They said, absolutely. We sure can. However, they did not understand that before they could ever be crowned and have crowns in glory; there is going to have to be some suffering that was going to be involved. That comes in life sometimes.

This is that James that knew the Lord very well. One of the inner circle that Jesus took with John, His brother and Peter and went and did different situations and miracles. He left the other nine somewhere else. However, He took these three fellows many times and did special things that they got to see.

However, now Herod kills him. He is dead. The Bible says here in verse 3...

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also.
(Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

It tells us here that he apprehends him and puts him in prison.

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

So, he saw that the people got all excited because he had killed James. One of the prominent disciples, one of the prominent ones that had followed Jesus. He was one of the prominent one that had seen Jesus do all this stuff. He has killed him and now he has Peter. Peter was a leader of the gang. Peter was the leader of this whole band. Peter was the guy that everybody looked up to. Now Herod has him and he is planning on killing him.

The Bible says here...

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also.
(Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

It is the feast of unleavened bread. Therefore, Herod understood that all the Jews would be busy and they would be busy with the holiday. So, he decides after Easter, when the holiday is over, then he would bring him out before the people and he would also kill him. Again, the people would just think that he was the greatest thing to come along.

However, something happened. The Bible says here Peter is. He is in prison. He is kept here. They have 16 soldiers watching him at different shifts, and different times. He is chained up to some soldiers. However, something was happening, while Peter was in prison. Something was happening just down the road, not very far; there were a bunch of born again people praying. Amen! The Bible says that.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

So, Peter is in jail—do you know what is happening? People are praying. There is power in praying. There is power in prayer. There is absolute power in prayer.

I have said this many times here, no doubt. I have seen God do some absolute miraculous things in answer to prayer. I saw Him answer prayer when the kids were small. It might be in the middle of the night and they would be sick running a fever. Many times, we could go in and did go in; and we would pray with them. Do you know what would happen? Their little ole fever would be gone. It would leave. Many times, we have seen God do things like that in so many ways.

Here Peter is in jail. They are about to kill him the next day. The church is praying. They church is praying without ceasing for him. Do you know what that means? They were praying around the clock.

Do you know what? We have done that here before. We might need to get back to that. I thought about today as I was studying on this. We may get us a chart up...and we may do that again, because we had some awesome times when we would sign up and pray at different time through the night, or through the day. Somebody was praying all the time. Praying all the time for your family and my family and people who were lost. Do you know what we saw? I have said this many times. We saw that it worked. God answered prayer and then we just quit doing it. (I will take the blame for that.) However, people were praying. The church was praying.

The Bible says that Peter is chained up. The Bible says in verse 6...

Acts 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Get that. Peter is going to die the next day. Herod is going to bring him down to the people and they are going to kill him. Here he is in prison. He is chained to two soldiers. Their keepers are at the door watching the door. The reason they were doing that—I think it is the third time...that Peter has been in jail. The first two times, he just sort of got out. The Lord just delivered him. Do you know what they were trying to make sure? We are not going to let this guy get out this time. He may have slipped out before, but he is not going to get out this time.

Herod was a very cruel, brutal, murderous guy; and he had a lot of power with a lot of people. However, there was one sitting on the throne in heaven that was a whole lot stronger than Herod sitting on a throne in Jerusalem. Herod did not know that, but he is going to learn that, if you read on down through the story. He is going to get introduced to some bugs. You know. That is in the story.

Here he is. Sleeping. Why in the would you be asleep, if you thought you were going to die the next day? You knew the holidays were over. You knew what was going on. Here Peter is asleep, and he is going to die the next day. There is a reason for that. Do you know what it is? God told him he was going to get old.

If you read John 21, Jesus told him, "Peter when you were young, you did what you wanted to. You went wherever you wanted to go. However, when you get old, Peter"... Peter remembered. "Hey, the Lord told me I was going to get old. I'm not old yet, so therefore, I know I am not going to die." Amen! Peter knew that. He wasn't worried about dying. He wasn't worried about what was going to take place. Do you know what he was doing? He was getting some rest. He was sound asleep. I know he is sound asleep, because when the angel gets here, he has to whack him to get him woke up.

Here he is asleep. The soldiers are guarding the place. They are planning on killing him the next day. He chained between two soldiers. The keeper is at the door.

Get this. The church is praying. Peter is asleep, but the church is praying. Peter is getting some rest, but the church is praying. Peter is in jail, but the church is praying. Prayer changes situations, guys. Prayer changes me. Prayer will change you. Prayer moves the heart of Almighty God. It really does.

Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

Now I don't think he went up and said, "Hey, Peter, get up." (whispering). When I read that and when I read what he says, do you know what I think happens? He goes up and whacks Peter once, and says, "Peter, get up. Get out of here. Let's go. We've got things to do."

Acts 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

Here you are chained. You are asleep. You are sleeping very well. Something happens. The light floods this place, the Bible says here. You feel somebody beating on you a little bit. You hear a voice that says, "Hey, get up." The angel helps him up and says, "We got to get out of here."

Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Do you ever think about why the angel did that? Did you ever think about...? Here is an angel. He comes in and wakes Peter up. The place is full of light. The chains fell off of his hands. He helps Peter get up. Then he tells him, "Put your clothes on. Put on your shoes because we have to go."

God will work miracles in our life. He does. This is a miracle. This is an absolute miracle that cannot be denied. A miracle. However, sometimes in the miracles that God works in our lives—get this—we have a part to play.

Do you know what Peter could have done? "I'm not getting up. I'm tired..." There could have been all kinds of things Peter could have done and sometimes we do that. Sometimes the Lord wants to do something with us and through us and for us. Then sometimes we just don't have time. We have other things that we want to do. Other things that we would rather be participating in. Many times, speaking for me; no doubt, we have missed out on a lot before because we did not listen.

Here is what happens.

Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

"Peter put on your clothes. Put on your shoes. Put on your sandals. Bind them up. Throw your overcoat around you and follow me." Peter couldn't get himself out. Peter

couldn't get himself loose from the chains. It is impossible for Peter to get loose. Peter could not do that.

Listen. God dispatched an angel to take care of that. Amen! Peter could put on his shoes. Peter could put on his coat. Peter could put his overcoat on. Those are things that Peter could and, in this miracle, the angel expected him to do that...

When Jesus goes to raise Lazarus from the dead, He goes to the tomb where Lazarus has been dead four days. Amen! They already rolled the stone up there. No doubt, it has already been sealed up. Do you know what Jesus does and says? He tells the crowd that is there, roll away the stone. Didn't He? He could have rolled away the stone.

The angel could have put Peter's shoes on. However, do you know what? We have a part to play, as God works in our life. Sometimes, we can roll away a stone. We can't raise the dead, but we can roll away the stone. I can't loose the chains that the enemy may chain us with sometimes and we may bind ourselves with sometimes. It may take an angel to do that, but do you know what I can do? I can still yet tie my shoes. It is getting a little harder. It is getting a little harder to bend over and get your socks on sometimes. However, I can still yet do that. God expects us to do what we can do and...When we will do what we can do, God will do what we can't do. There are a lot of things in life that we can't do.

Acts 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Acts 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Get something here. I want you to get this. Here he is. The angel wakes him and tells him to put his clothes on and put his shoes on. He said, "Follow me. We have to get out of here." They start out of there. The Bible says here...

Acts 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

In other words, when they got to this big iron gate, do you know what it means? It means its like the angel had a remote, and the gate just opens up. The gate just comes open.

Acts 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Peter couldn't get out. He couldn't get loose from the soldiers. I don't think he was a bit worried about dying because he knew the Lord told him he was going to get old. There were some things that Peter could do and there were some things that Peter could not do.

One thought. The scriptures tell us that the angel led Peter out. The angel brought Peter out. Get this. However, it was prayer that brought the angel. Amen! The angel brought Peter out but it was a bunch of born again people praying that dispatched the angel. Amen! Do you know what that tells me? Do you know what that should tell us? That is how important praying is. That is how much power there is in praying. Intercessing prayer. Praying around the clock. Being serious with our praying. These guys prayed without ceasing; around the clock, day and night. I don't know how many days they prayed. If I understand things, maybe a whole week here they pray around the clock, as I read this story. It touched the heart of God. Heaven was moved. The angel was dispatched. Prayer brought the angel and the angel led him out.

There are times in our life...I believe this. There are times in our life that when the angel has been dispatched. He comes and he takes us out. He delivers us and sometimes we may not even know it. sometimes we may not even know that we have been rescued and brought out by people praying, godly people praying.

Listen. There is nothing like praying for yourself, but praying for other people. Asking God to bless other people, to help with their needs or whatever is going on in their life. Do you know what God does? That touches the heart of God. That moves the heart of God. Peter goes down where they are praying. He knocks on the door. A little girl comes up and looks through a hole in the door. Do you know what? She did not think that was Peter. She goes back in. You all know the story. After a while, they let him. They have a great time.

Do you know what? God has a plan for us. Do you know how long we will live? Until He gets done with us. If we live in the will of God, we will live here until God gets done with us. amen!

Herod can't kill us. He may try. Herod may try. However, he can't until God gets done with us.

I don't know why James died and Peter lived. I don't know that. I don't understand that. I don't know that. However, I do know God had a plan. I do know that God knew what He was doing. Do you know what I know today? I know that God knows what He is doing today.

Come and pray—