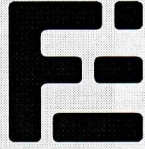


Wed Night



FRESH ENCOUNTER

## BUT PRAYER WAS MADE

APRIL 24, 2024 | PAUL CHOI

*"Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) 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. 5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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." (Acts 12:1-11)*

### INTRODUCTION

- Paul killed James (brother of John)
- King Herod puts Peter into prison
- Peter chained between 2 soldiers
- Church in Jerusalem prayed to God
- Church had no power to change anything
- Channel of prayer of ~~the~~ God (Jms 1-5)
- \* Philp 4: 7-8 Peace of God guard your hearts & minds
- Early Christian believers knew the power of God through prayer

## 1. THE Position & Rage OF HEROD (v. 1-4)

- a. Vex means to persecute or harm
- b. King Herod Agrippa I ruled 37-44 AD
  - desperate for local support
  - he wanted to gain favor of local political leaders (the Jews)
- c. God did not prevent death of James
- d. King Herod imprisons Peter (leader)

## 2. THE Response OF THE CHURCH (v. 5)

- Prayer was made by church
- \* Peter (church leader) in prayer
- Ever persistent prayer (Jms 5:17-18)
- Syro Phoenician woman begs Jesus to heal her daughter (Mt 15:21-28)

Mt 6:  
6-8

- A. Urgent Prayer - ~~without stopping~~ with great passion
  - similar to Jesus prayer (Lk 22:44)
- B. Unceasing Prayer - without stopping
  - ask, seek, knock in prayer (Lk 11:9-10, 13)
- C. United Prayer - church all together
  - Disciples waited for Pentecost in prayer (Acts 1:13, 14)

## 3. THE Release OF PETER (v. 6-11)

- a. James released back to God in death
- b. But God's angel released Peter back to the church from prison

### CONCLUSION

- 4. Many times church to pray together
  - a. Church praying together at home of Mary (mother of John Mark)
    - John Mark also went on Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (Act 12:25)
  - b. Peter left to another location next day (Acts 12:17) Act 13:13



VIEW THE NOTES ONLINE



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