

**Detained,
But Not Defeated**
Acts 12:1-16

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Acts 12:1 NLT

About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church.

Acts 12:2

He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword.

Acts 12:3

When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.)

Acts 12:4

Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover.

Acts 12:5

But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

Acts 12:6

The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate.

Acts 12:7

Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, “Quick! Get up!” And the chains fell off his wrists.

Acts 12:8

Then the angel told him, “Get dressed and put on your sandals.” And he did. “Now put on your coat and follow me,” the angel ordered.

Acts 12:9

So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening.

Acts 12:10a

They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself.

Acts 12:10b

So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him.

Acts 12:11

Peter finally came to his senses.
“It’s really true!” he said. “The Lord
has sent his angel and saved me
from Herod and from what the
Jewish leaders had planned to do
to me!”

Acts 12:12

When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer.

Acts 12:13

He knocked at the door in the gate,
and a servant girl named Rhoda
came to open it.

Acts 12:14

When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!"

Acts 12:15

“You’re out of your mind!” they said. When she insisted, they decided, “It must be his angel.”

Acts 12:16

Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed.

1. The Adversity Peter Encountered (verses 1-4)

A. The Opposition

B. The Despair

Meet Your Fears With Faith.

1. The Adversity Peter Encountered (verses 1-4)

C. The Incarceration

There is a certain level of maturity that can only be achieved through the discipline of suffering.

2. The Advantages He Enjoyed

A. The prayers of the church

B. The Lord's presence

Jesus takes to heart the trials and the suffering of his friends.

2. The Advantages He Enjoyed

C. The Power of the Lord

**True faith leans on the power of
the Lord.**

D. The Perspective of Faith

3. What They Learned

A. Their Purpose

B. Their Pessimism

Doubt brings distress but trust
brings joy.

C. Their Persuasion

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