

Sunday, January 21, 2018
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington
Dr. LaBarron F. McAdoo, Sr.
8a.m. and 11a.m. Services
Series: Balance of Your Work, Worship, and Witness
Sermon: The Strength and Strategy of a Testimony
Scripture: Acts 12:1-16

Why Did God Get You Out?

It is hard to talk about God getting us out if we don't believe that we have been in anything. Growth happens after particular activities. Problems were a catalyst for growth.

Acts 12:1-6 (KJV) 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 leavened 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.

Trial/Test – v. 1- 6 This was a nationally memory day to remember where the Lord had brought them from. They were in the Passover celebration the Jews who were celebrating Passover liked the persecution that Herod was doing to the church. Herod put high premium on pleasing people. You got to be careful of folks that love pleasing people because you may become at risk. Peter is in a place looking and wondering when Herod is coming for him. He is locked in, down, and up and for all practical purposes it looks like what happened to James is about to happen to him.

Acts 12:7-8 (KJV) 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.

Transition - v. 7 & 8 - He was told to get up, and when he gets up, the chains began to come off. Awaken in the middle of two men, told to get up and did, chains fell off, get dressed, put on your shoes, and a coat. No sense of urgency but a super abundance of confidence. When God transition you such a way that you don't have to bribe or connive. It was done so good, he thought he was dreaming.

Acts 12:9-11 (KJV) 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.

Target – v. 9 – 11 - Peace accompanies you when God is in charge of your transition. God initiates deliverance simply by you following. So much anointing in the transition that the gate opens for you. When God orchestrates even inanimate objects become animate. When God makes something do what it isn't supposed to do, it is a miracle.

Acts 12:12-17 (KJV) ¹² And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. ¹³ And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. ¹⁴ And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the

door, and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

Thanks – v. 12 – 17 - Peter goes back to a predictable place. Why does he go there? They are praying for Peter, but don't seem to believe what they been praying for. She's confident that it's his voice but too excited to let him in. Although there is a risk, Peter still knocking. He knew his story was about someone's strength. He came back to let them know that prayers work. He came back to let the leaders know that God is more than the whole world against them. He delivered you so you can declare it!!!

V. 18 – 24 - Herod did not give glory to God and God sent an angel to take him out.