

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What effect did this miracle have on the early believers?
2. Are we sometimes astonished when we see our prayers answered?
3. What effect has the “prayer of the church” had on you?
4. Why did the church flourish during this time of severe persecution?

SUMMARY:

The early Christians had been brought to their extremity by overwhelming circumstances. God often places his children in dire need so that the “evidence” and “substance” of faith through prayer can operate undisturbed by man’s seeming ability to get along by himself. God delivered Peter from certain death, removed the dreaded King Herod, and provided supplies to weather the famine about to come. Nothing can alter the course of God in this world—His will shall be done!

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

February 16, 2003

First Quarter

PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON

LESSON TEXT: *Acts 12:1-25*

LESSON SETTING: In the city and vicinity of Jerusalem prison.

TIME: Approximately 44 AD

- I. A WICKED PLAN.** Acts 12:1-6
 - A. Man Schemes. (vs. 1, 4, 6) John 18:2-3
 - B. Men-pleasers. (vs. 3) John 12:43
 - C. Believers victimized. (vs. 2, 4, 5) Hebrews 11:37
- II. PRAYER IS MADE.** Acts 12:5
 - A. Supplication for the Saints. Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16
 - B. God hears the prayers. Isaiah 65:24
 - C. God answers prayer. Matthew 7:7-8; John 15:7
- III. A REMARKABLE DELIVERANCE.** Acts 12:6-17
 - A. God does the impossible (vs. 7-10) Luke 18:27
 - B. Initial Doubt (vs. 9, 13-16) Matthew 14:31
 - C. God reveals Himself (vs. 11, 17) Matthew 16:17
- IV. A JUST PUNISHMENT.** Acts 12:18-25
 - A. Smitten of God (vs. 23) 2 Kings 19:35

GOLDEN TEXT: *HE DELIVERETH AND RESCUETH, AND HE WORKETH SIGNS AND WONDERS IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.*

Daniel 6:27

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Peter 4:1-19

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 10:34-42;
2 Corinthians 4:16-18;
Revelation 2:8-11

QUARTERLY THEME: The First Church Officers

TOPIC: CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES

INTRODUCTION:

If we examine our attitudes we will find they are generally the same as the attitudes of those we love and admire. This process begins very early in life with a child trying to imitate the walk or the talk of an admired adult who is to them a hero. So it should be in the walk of a Christian. If Christ is the great example in our lives, we will find ourselves seeking to be like Him. The Word says that we should have the mind of Christ, which would in itself make us act and react like Him. Our text provides us with the knowledge of how He would act in a situation and knowing this, we should certainly respond in the same manner.

It is through the Word that the Christian determines those things that God deems to be of the greatest importance. Knowing these, our patterns and attitudes are established. Our attitudes, in turn, determine just how we will respond in a given situation. If we believe God has given us talents and that they are not our own, we will not esteem self more highly than we ought, and we will spend them in His cause. If we believe Christ glorified God in His suffering, we will gladly suffer the same, in His name.

We should constantly be examining our actions and attitudes to see if they parallel the teachings of the Scripture. The "mirror" of God's Word will reflect us as we are. He will, if we allow, change our very attitudes to make us more like Christ.

CENTRAL TRUTH: In trial or triumph a Christlike attitude characterizes the follower of Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT: *ABOVE ALL THINGS HAVE FERVENT CHARITY AMONG YOURSELVES.*

1 Peter 4:8

The meaning of the word charity has degenerated over the years to come to mean the giving of something to others. During the time of the translation of the Word, it meant something best described through the use of our word - love. It really means a special kind of love. It means a deep love that is concerned primarily with the well being of the object of that love. It was a form of this word that Christ used when He asked Peter if he loved Him. It must have made the Lord sad to hear Peter say, "You know I am fond of You." It did make Peter sad when he was asked if he was really fond of the Lord. It is the same Peter who now, in our text, encourages us to have a fervent love for one another, that kind of love which forces us to esteem others more than self and is concerned with the well-being of others. If this attitude directs our every thought, there can be nothing but harmony in the household of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 17 - 23

- M. Attitude Toward Christian Ministry. 2 Corinthians 11:1-9
- T. Attitude Toward Evil Forces. 2 Corinthians 11:10-15
- W. Attitude Toward Persecution. 2 Corinthians 11:16-25
- T. Attitude Toward Responsibility. 2 Corinthians 11:26-33
- F. *Attitude Toward the World. 1 Peter 4:1-6
- S. *Attitude Toward the Church. 1 Peter 4:7-11
- S. *Attitude Toward Suffering. 1 Peter 4:12-19