



Acts: Peter in Prison

April 19

INTRODUCTION: Acts: *Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8.* Set between Jerusalem/Judea/Samaria/Galilee and later missions to the ends of the earth, we've seen Gentile expansion but now opposition (chs. 10–12). Opposition began with Herod's plot but today we see how it was foiled.

KEY POINT: persecution, miracle, deliverance, Mt 16:18

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Herod's Opposition)

- What two themes do we find in the segue of chs. 10–12?
- How and why did Herod seek to oppose the Church?
- What are the weapons of our warfare (2 Cor 10:4)?
- Why did Luke go to great lengths to set up Peter's security?

P.M. BIBLE STUDY RECAP (Versteeg, Luke 24:44 - 49)

- How did the OT point to and find fulfilment in Christ?
- What glory is there in this?
- How did the Gospel meet the needs of the Garden?
- How would the Spirit help them be witnesses?

READ: Acts 11:19–30

QUESTIONS:

1. *In God's providence we never know entirely why James' are killed and Peter's go free, however, we can trust this wider promise—Mt 16:18. While the Church may suffer from persecution, how are Jesus' words true?*
2. **How has Satan tried to destroy the Church through the Ages?**
3. **What do the odds of the Church's survival (especially from a fledgling community to an international body) tell us about the supernatural nature of the Church?**
4. **V. 4- What type of high security was Peter under?**
5. **What was Peter facing the next day?**

6. **V. 6- would you pray (or sing Acts 16:25) if you were put in prison because of your Faith? What enabled Peter to sleep on the eve of his execution? (other than he was getting used to being in prison!).**
7. **What miracles happened during Peter's prison break?**
8. **Why do you think such detail is given?**
9. **How do these highlight God was foiling Herod's plan?**
10. **V. 9 & 11- What should we make of Peter thinking he was seeing a vision?**
11. *Peter knows where many of the disciples would be, Mary's house. It was some house given that it had a gateway, probably a courtyard through which the servant had to travel. Some have suggested this is the upper room mentioned in Mk 14:15.*
12. **Who did they suspect may have been at the door?**
13. **V. 15- Praying for Peter, what challenge does Luke offer to their unbelief?**
14. *Usually servants aren't recorded. How does Rhoda's example shine against the church's response?*
15. **v. 17- Who is now the head of the Jerusalem church? How would Peter's testimony been an encouragement?**
16. *A wanted man, Peter left Jerusalem to begin his wider ministries.*
17. **V. 19- Roman law stated guards who let their prisoners go free would suffer a similar fate. In their deaths we see the cruelty of Herod. In his search, what truth did Herod not want to entertain?**

NEXT: April 19- Paul and Barnabas Commissioned, Acts 12:24–13:3