

Sermon Title: "ARREST AND DELIVERANCE"

Date: February 5, 2023 - Acts 12:1-19

Central Idea: God watches over His church and carries out His plan. Are you aware of God's care and His plan?

Introduction: Luke interrupts his intense account of the birth and expansion of the church to give us some comic relief. He enjoys telling these accounts of the interventions of the Lord which are answers to the very prayers His people are still praying. The account of Peter's release from prison while the Christians prayed and their inability to recognize the answer when it came is told humorously. We laugh through it with Luke, and then suddenly we realize he's helped us laugh at ourselves!

I. Danger to the church vv. 1-5

- 1. Death of James vv. 1-2**
- 2. Fate of Peter vv. 3-4**
- 3. Prayer of the church v. 5**

II. Deliverance of Peter vv. 6-19

- 1. Release from prison vv. 6-11**
- 2. Reaction of the church vv. 12-17**
- 3. Revenge from Herod vv. 18-19**

III. Dynamic Prayer vv. 5, 12

- 1. United vv. 5, 12**
- 2. Unceasing v. 5**
- 3. Earnest v. 12**
- 4. Definite v. 5**

Conclusion: The early Christians were real people with real problems like us. The present world is full of injustice and pain, and we should expect it. God wants His people to rest in the assurance of His unchanging, constant power. Some of us need to be reacquainted with our position and power in Christ. Some of us need to come into better connection with the Source. These changes happen only through a growing faith and honest prayer.