

With Sister Paulette Morrison
on February 13, 2022

DISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE WORD

A Reading and Listening Session Recap

Acts 12



Introduction

The Reading and Listening Session held on Sunday evening, February 13, 2022, centered on the theme **"Discover the Power of the Word by Reading the Word of God."** The focus passage came from **Acts 12**, a chapter that vividly demonstrates the power of prayer, divine intervention, and the triumph of God's Word over human pride and persecution.

The Story from Acts 12

The chapter opens with a time of great persecution against the early church. King Herod, seeking to please the people, stretched forth his hand to harm the believers. He executed **James, the brother of John**, by the sword (Acts 12:1–2). Emboldened by the approval of the people, Herod arrested **Peter**, intending to bring him before the public after Easter. Peter was placed under heavy guard—**four quaternions of soldiers**—but the church responded not with fear, but with **unceasing prayer** (Acts 12:4–5).

In the midst of Peter's imprisonment, **a miraculous event unfolded**. The **angel of the Lord** appeared, and **a light shone in the prison**. The angel struck Peter on the side, awakening him and commanding him to rise quickly. Instantly, **his chains fell off**, and he was instructed to dress and follow the angel (Acts 12:7–8). This divine visitation marked the beginning of Peter's miraculous deliverance.

When Peter came to himself, he realized that the Lord had truly sent His angel to deliver him from Herod's hand and from the expectations of the people (Acts 12:11). He made his way to the house of **Mary, the mother of John Mark**, where many believers were gathered in prayer. As Peter knocked at the door, a young servant girl named **Rhoda** recognized his voice but, in her excitement, left him standing outside. When she told the others, they **doubted** her, insisting she was mistaken. Yet Peter continued knocking until they opened the door and were **astonished** to see him (Acts 12:13–16).

Peter recounted how the Lord had delivered him and instructed them to **"Go, show these things unto James and to the brethren."** He then departed to another place for safety (Acts 12:17). Meanwhile, Herod, upon discovering Peter's escape, was furious. The guards were executed, and Herod withdrew to Caesarea (Acts 12:19).

Later, Herod appeared before the people in royal apparel and delivered a public address. The crowd exalted him, shouting, **“It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.”** Because Herod failed to give glory to God, **the angel of the Lord struck him**, and he was **eaten from the inside by worms** and died (Acts 12:21–23). Despite the persecution and pride of men, **“the Word of God grew and multiplied”** (Acts 12:24).

Reflections and Topics from Readers and Listeners

During the session, participants reflected on key themes and lessons drawn from the passage.

- **Angel Visited Peter** – Acts 12:7
- **Light Shineth in the Prison** – Acts 12:7
- **Doubted** – Acts 12:15
- **Eaten from the Inside** – Acts 12:23
- **James Was Killed** – Acts 12:2
- **Pray Without Ceasing** – Acts 12:5
- **Peter Knock** – Acts 12:13
- **Astonished** – Acts 12:16
- **Eaten Alive** – Acts 12:23
- **Miraculous Deliverance** – Acts 12:7–8
- **Tell James** – Acts 12:17
- **Pride Is Deadly** – Acts 12:21–23
- **The Word of God Gained Ground** – Acts 12:24

Key Takeaways

Acts 12 stands as a powerful reminder of the **sovereignty of God** and the **power of prayer**. While human authority sought to silence the church, divine power intervened. The chapter contrasts the humility of believers who prayed without ceasing with the arrogance of Herod, who exalted himself above God.

Through Peter’s deliverance, the church witnessed that **God hears and answers prayer**. Through Herod’s downfall, it was revealed that **pride leads to destruction**. And through it all, the message resounded clearly: **no matter the opposition, the Word of God continues to grow and multiply.**