

## ACTS 12; October 13; Peter Released to a Prayer Meeting

### ANALYSIS:

1. What did Herod the King do to two leaders in the Jerusalem church?  
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2. How many supernatural things accompanied Peter's nighttime release from prison? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Peter find at the house of Mary? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Herod do when he discovered Peter missing from the prison? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did the Lord kill Herod? \_\_\_\_\_

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

The Apostle James had recently been killed by Herod. Peter had been imprisoned and was scheduled to die next. Many were gathered together praying. It seems likely that they were praying for Peter's deliverance. Rhoda answered Peter's knock, and without opening the door in her gladness, ran into the prayer meeting to say Peter was released and was at the gate. "Thou art mad" was hardly the faith-based response we might expect. Why were they astonished to see Peter? Had they prayed for James before he was killed? Did his death perplex and disillusion these saints? Had circumstances dimmed their memory of the LORD'S word to Jeremiah (32:27)? "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" Is the Lord teaching us that His saints sometimes pray without any real expectation? Is this experience meant to challenge us to pray expecting real answers? Specific needs call us to be specific in prayer. Do you call for a prayer meeting when facing a decision, situation, need, danger or the unknown? A prayer meeting might involve your family, a friend, a few friends or the whole church. Recall some answered prayers and praise the Lord for His great goodness.

### HELP:

1. Herod had killed James the brother of John, and imprisoned Peter intending to kill him also (vs 2-3).
2. An angel appears in the prison, a light shines there, the angel wakes Peter, Peter's chains fall off without keys, no guards awaken, guards who should have been awake at the first and second wards never saw Peter and the angel, the gate into the city opened by itself, they together go down one street, the angel departs (vs 7-10).
3. Many there gathered together praying (v 12).
4. He examined the keepers of the prison and commanded they be put to death, then he left Judea and went to Caesarea (v 19).
5. People honored him for his oration saying, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man," and he gave no glory to God (vs 22-23).