



CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: MINISTRY TO ME

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

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TEXT: ACTS 12:1-19

TITLE: THE POWER OF A PRAYING CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

- A. Every day, decisions are made that do not favor the life and livelihood of average, ordinary people _____
1. **Micah 2:1**
 2. **Matthew 13:25**
 3. **Isaiah 5:20**
 4. **Amos 2:6**
- B. Nevertheless, God is working on the behalf of God's people – and desires to work in miraculous and supernatural ways _____
1. **Exodus 3:7**
 2. **Jeremiah 33:3**
 3. **Psalms 20:6**
 4. **Isaiah 65:24**
- C. Therefore, you want your church praying for you. You want the power from the prayers of your church

THE DEVIL'S ATTACK

- A. Jesus is persecuted – Herod _____
1. Luke 9:9 – Acknowledged beheading John; desired to see Jesus
 2. Luke 13:31 – Pharisees tell Jesus that Herod wants to kill Him
 3. Luke 23:11 – Pilate sent Jesus to Herod who ridiculed and mocked Him
- B. The church is persecuted – Herod _____
1. Acts 12:1 – He persecuted believers in the church
 2. Acts 12:2 – He had James (John's brother) killed with a sword
- C. Peter is persecuted _____
1. Herod is emboldened after killing James – pleasing the people
 2. Herod has Peter arrested, and placed in prison
- D. Today... _____

GOD'S RESPONSE – A PRAYING CHURCH

- A. Peter was kept in prison, but _____
- B. Constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church _____
- C. Characteristics of the prayer... _____
1. At least, a couple of days (the Passover was 7 days)
 2. All day long, well into the night (Peter is sleeping; the church is praying)
 3. Constant (*ektenēs* = stretched out)
- D. What are the characteristics of our prayers? _____
- E. The power the prayer produced... _____
1. Note: Peter is bound with 2 chains between 2 soldiers, with other soldiers (14) guarding the door
 2. An angel appeared to Peter, and a light shone in the cell
 3. Peter's chains fell off
 4. They passed the first and second guard posts undetected
 5. The iron gate opened by itself (*automatos*)
 6. Peter is rescued from Herod, and what the Jewish people expected
- F. What power is produced from our prayers? _____