

The Book of Acts Study Notes

CHAPTER 12 Part 1

The Vexing of the Church

- ❖ Ungodly leadership seeks to vex (kakoo: to oppress, afflict, harm, maltreat) certain of the church
 - The whole Body doesn't have to be vexed for the attack to be effective
 - The enemy looks for opportunities to vex the work of ministry – Acts 14:1-2, Eph. 6:10-20
 - Harassing spirits – Acts 16:16-24
 - Tormenting spirits – Mat. 15:21-28; Luke 9:39-42
 - Fear generating spirits – 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 John 4:18
 - Depressing spirits – Deut. 31:8; Psa. 40:1-3; Phil. 4:8
 - Overwhelming spirits – Isa. 59:19; Isa. 41:10
 - Worrying spirits – Psa. 94:19(MSG)
- ❖ James, one of Jesus inner circle, killed and beheaded - first martyr – Mat. 20:21-23

The Attempt to Overwhelm the Body

- ❖ Vs. 3: It is sad to know the religious of that day pushed an ungodly leader to vex the true Church
 - Takes Peter also to please the people...

The Church comes together – vs. 5

- ❖ In Prayer
 - Fervently – James 5:16; Acts 12:5; 1 Thes. 5:17
 - We must also learn to pray with urgency – Neh. 1:4,11; Col. 4:2
 - Intercession – Eph. 6:18; Psa. 106:23
 - Pray with confidence – John 15:7; Mat. 21:22; 1 John 5:14-15; Luke 18:1
- ❖ We can not allow the enemy to divide us in this season and prevent us from coming together...
- ❖ Note that the prayer wasn't depending on a building – Acts 12:12

Last hours deliverance – vs. 6-10

- ❖ And Peter is still sleeping – Acts 20:24; Psa. 127:2; Psa. 16:8
 - Vs. 9: Peter even thought he was dreaming

Are You Ready for Manifestation? – vs. 11-19

- ❖ Vs. 7-11: Angel comes and delivers Peter from 2 JAIL CELLS:
 - (1) Herod Agrippa – systematic oppression and
 - (2) Expectation of the people
- ❖ Vs. 12: Peter knew where to go – John Mark's mother's house – the place of prayer
 - She had means and servants but still prayed...
- ❖ Vs. 13-14: Peter knocks – Rhoda (Rose, teenager) happy but door closed
 - Some of you are so excited that after all the junk in your life, you have realized that God wants to use you – that you have been spending all your time praising God, thanking God for what He has done, telling others about what He has done, but you have forgotten to OPEN THE DOOR so He can do even greater works in your life!!!