

OUTLINE
July 27, 2008

Living For A Mission
"A Mission Controlled By God"
Acts 12

I. God is in control, even when I suffer.

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church." (Acts 12:1-5)

A. No one is exempt from suffering.

1. Even if you are sincere.
2. Even if you are a servant.
3. Even if you sacrifice.
4. Even if you have stature.

B. When suffering comes you cannot believe God is no longer sovereign.

II. God is in control, even if it is midnight.

- A. God is never late, but He is seldom early.
- B. God hears earnest prayer.

III. God is in control, even when my faith is weak.

"So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying." (Acts 12:12)

- A. Peter goes to Mark's house.
- B. Have you ever prayed but weren't really thinking that God would answer?
(Reference vs. 13-17)

What makes our faith stronger?

- Hearing God's Word.
- Exercise.
- Experience.

IV. God is in control, even when the wicked seem to prosper.

"Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among our soldiers about what had become of Peter." (Acts 12:18)

- A. Herod's anger.
- B. People's hypocrisy.
- C. The sovereignty of God.

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." (1 Corinthians 4:5)