



## Sermon Series Notes

### “Prayer and Providence” (Acts 12)

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#### INTRO:

Have you ever wondered how the great commandment (LOVING GOD AND OTHERS) and the great commission(MAKE DISCIPLES) are connected?

. The Great commandment and great commission is **BELIEF PUT INTO ACTION**

9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10

Christianity has always been interested in restoration and renewal. The reason we are moved in because we have been restored and renewed and one day we will experience complete renewal and restoration in heaven.

#### READ ACTS 12

##### I. Herod’s act of Power

##### A. Herod committed Evil against the Church WHY? **V. 1**

##### 1. Herod’s rise to power.

Herod Agrippa 1 was born in 10BC a grandson of Herod the Great. His father was executed by his grandfather in 7bc and lived in Rome where he was acquainted with the royal family. Herod acquired a great debt and was placed in prison. Caligula made Herod Agrippa ruler of palestine including judea and samaria. Herod was also a brilliant politician knowing that his family was hated in the region. Herod took opportunity to win the affection of the people by bringing stability through being an observant Jew. The Mishnah records that “when they reached the Temple Mount even Agrippa the king would take his basket on his shoulder and enter in as far as the Temple Court”

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, John Acts loose translation 407-408

2. He was an Loved by the Jews Even though he was an Edomite **V.3**

Agrippa participated in the reading of scripture that jewish kings would read during the feast of Tabernacles. When Agrippa read Deuteronomy 17:14-20 "thou mayest not put a foreigner over thee which is not thy brother" (Deut 17:15, his eyes flowed with tears (Because of his edomite ancestry; but they called out to him,"our brother art thou!, Our brother art thou!....

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, John Acts loose translation 407-408

He viewed Jewish Christians as divisive and felt their activities could only disturb the people and inflame antagonism.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, John Acts loose translation 408

3. Herod's acts of Evil were a strategic demonstration of power.**V.6**

- a. James death **V.1**
- b. Peter was to be an example of Herod's power **V.6**
- c. Peter was heavily guarded

B. Peter's escape threatened Herod's power **V.18-19**

How do we deal with an abuse of Power? We call on God not only are King but are Father.

II. Praying in Faith-**AN APPEAL-TO OUR FATHER V.5**

Prayer in the response of tragedy... It shows that he don't have control of the situation and that we are dependent on the power of another.

A. The Nature of their Prayer- **V.5**

1. They weren't informing God of Peter's arrest. They were being **persistent** in praying for his release
2. Their prayer was **unified** as the Church...
3. Their prayers was **Earnest**.... They strained together

C. The belief of Prayer- We are heard! **READ Matthew 6:5-15- OUR FATHER**

There are two different ways to approach someone, each approach is based on our relationship - Tim Keller

1. Business relationship; I have something for you. The basis of my relationship is my performance

2. Family relationship: What I am to you: The basis is a commitment/You should perform so you can be accepted.

***You live towards God as either as a renter or as family.***

3. How To Pray:

- a. We start as family- Our Father
- b. Praise- Hallowed by your name
- c. Petition- Daily Bread
- d. Submission and Confession- Forgiveness

**EVAN -"Show you" -**

1. Fruit Snacks- His persistence will not stop until he has an answer.
  - a. Dinner- We put him in his chair and not give him fruit snacks because we want him to eat dinner with us. Dad but I don't want what Mom made.
2. I hear his Pain- His voice is distinct in the crowd.

D. Content of their Prayer- **Acts 4:23-31 - Peter has already been released from Jail once before. Acts 5:17-19**

1. SOVEREIGN LORD! V.24
2. CONSIDER THE THREATS V.29
3. STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND V.30

III. Believing in Providence- **Our Father Answers**

A. James died in Faith **V. 1**

Clement tells an interesting story, on the strength of an authentic tradition. It appears that the man who brought him into court was so moved when he saw him testify that he confessed that he, too, was a christian.

So they were both taken away together, and on the way he asked James to forgive him. James through for a moment; then he said, "I wish you peace" and kissed him. So both were beheaded at the same time.

Eusebius, The History of the Church, 81-82

B. Peter was Sleeping the night before **V.6**

C. Herod died believing his power was his own **V.21**

***How do our Prayers and God's providence work together?***

IV. Prayer and Providence:

A. OUR PRAYERS ARE IMPORTANT- God Providence and are Choices work together

We are not fatalistic but we don't believe the future is open? We believe God is Sovereign over everything and he uses are prayers as part of his plan.

**ACTS 27:23-32-Paul on the BOAT**

**23** Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me **24** and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' **25** So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. **26** Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

*So lets go swimming in the middle of the storm?*

**30** In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. **31** Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." **32** So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.

*Unless we stay together we will be lost*

B. Prayers are heard Because Christ suffered in the storm so we don't have to.

**Luke 8:22-25**

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. 24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "**Master, Master, we're going to drown!**" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "**Where is your faith?**" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

- a. No apparent guidance- We are going to drown
- b. Do you think I am holding back from you? - "where is your faith"

Jesus was saying, Don't you know that a Storm is coming a Storm of wrath and judgment. I am going into a storm for you. I will give everything to the father but I am going to be abandoned in this storm and sink. But because I sink I will be able to give you peace.

You can be sure that I will not abandon you in this storm for I will go through the storm for you can commit everything to me.

"Your bad things turn out for good, your good things can't be taken away and the best things are yet to come". Tim Keller

Examples of Sovereignty

Is 10:5-12- Assyria-

Is. 45:7- Spectrum Texts