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Big Disappointment
Acts 12:1-17

What happens when your next big thing becomes a big disappointment?

How do you respond?

The Early Church's Big Disappointment

Acts 12:1-4, *Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread. When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people.*

Background:

- Herod Agrippa - King over Southern Syria, 37 AD; 41 AD, Caesar Claudius (childhood friend) Added Judea.
- Descendent from the Hasmonean Dynasty
- Educated in Rome.

Responding to Life's Big Disappointments:

I. _____.

Acts 12:5 *So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.*

Acts 12:12 *And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.*

II. _____: Follow where God Leads.

Acts 12:6-11 *On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. 7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."*

III. _____.

Acts 12:17 *But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." Then he left and went to another place.*

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. How do you respond to big disappointments in life?
2. Have you ever cried out to God from the big disappointments in life?
3. Think about it: Are you trusting God with what God has already told you to do? Are you walking where God is leading? Are you faithful with what you know?
4. Do you share your stories of how God has rescued you from the big disappointments of life? Do you recognize when God has answered your prayers and share that encouragement with others?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org or call 703.819.7795 to set up an appointment.