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THE VIRTUE OF WAITING

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Acts 12:1-2 — Herod is threatened by the “church.” What does he do? What is Herod’s intent? Why can’t Herod, in his opinion, afford to take a “wait and see” attitude regarding the “church?” Why is Herod in such a rush to murder James? (*James is the first of the Twelve to face death for the cause of Christ.*)

Acts 12:3 — How does James’ murder appeal to the Jews? How does Herod follow up?

Acts 12:4 — Why doesn’t Herod have Peter tried immediately? What indicates that Herod suffered some nervousness during the time of waiting? Why? Read **Acts 5:17-24**.

Acts 12:5 — What is the church doing while Peter is in prison? Why is this a more positive response to waiting rather than wringing one’s hands?

What can be learned from the following: **Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 18:1; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Timothy 2:8** in regard to waiting? How do we put these examples into motion within our lives; our own congregations?

Acts 12:6 — How does Peter deal with the waiting? Peter didn’t know what tomorrow would bring and yet he slept. What does this tell us about Peter? How do we cope while waiting? “Hurry up and wait” is a harrowing experience. What comfort, hope do we derive from **Matthew 6:34; Matthew 11:28-30; Philippians 4:6-7; James 4:15**.

Acts 12:7-10 The church is waiting—and praying. Peter is waiting—and sleeping; and God is ? What is so remarkable about Peter’s sleeping? See **Psalms 4:8; Isaiah 26:3; Zephaniah 3:17**.

Acts 12:11 — Peter’s escape from prison has been realized. The waiting is over. Who does he credit with his release? How does **Proverbs 3:5-6** influence Peter’s waiting; our waiting?

Acts 12:12-13 — Where next does Peter’s journey take him?

Acts 12:14 — How is Peter received by Rhoda, the servant girl?

Acts 12:15-16 — How is Peter received by the church? What is so hard to believe about their reaction? (reread verses 5, 12) Are we any different? When we pray do we really expect an answer? See **Matthew 21:22; Hebrews 10:23-24; James 1:4-6**. Why is it so

difficult to wait for an answer to prayer? Consider the fact that we might be waiting for God to say “Yes” to our prayer when His answer is an outright “No” or “Wait, My time is not yet.”

Acts 12:17 — Within our worship service we don’t practise personal testimonial time but why is it important to tell each other about the wonders of God? At this particular time in church history, why did Peter give the command, “Tell James and the brothers about this.” Why couldn’t the good news of Peter’s rescue wait? How does this reaction apply to us today? See **Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Jude 20, 21.**

Waiting is difficult. Regardless of what age we are—waiting poses a challenge. Our patience wears thin. But there is virtue in waiting. Consider the following: **Psalm 25:4-5; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 37:5-7a; Psalm 40:1-3; Psalm 112:7-8; Psalm 130:5-6; Isaiah 30:18; Isaiah 40:28-31; Lamentations 3:19-26; 1 John 3:2-3.**