

44-Acts-Pt12-Transcript

well wasn't that an amazing escape how good evening and welcome back to our Wednesday night Bible study this week it's on Thursday appreciate you joining us once again that was an incredible escape but it is nothing compared to the escape that we're about to read in acts chapter 12 in this case it was a single police officer and it was a planned escape what we're going to look at tonight is 16 soldiers surrounding the Apostle Peter with the King having every intention to execute Peter and Peter making a clean escape let's look at this and see what lessons we can learn from Acts chapter 12 will open with a quick prayer and they get straight into the study our Heavenly Father we come before you again and praise you and thank you so much for your scriptures and so much for the faithful brethren that precede us and the lessons that we can learn from your scriptures and from their example we pray father that you'll be with us this evening as we study Acts chapter 12 and help us father to get as much encouragement and guidance as we can from these ancient texts we thank you Father and we ask your blessing on the study now in Jesus name so X chapter 12 will begin here in verse 1 and it says here in Acts chapter 12 verse 1 now about that time Herod the King stretched forth his hand to do evil to certain members of the church to vex certain of the church now about what time remember in acts chapter 11 where we left off after the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and everybody was you know that the Jews were contesting or confronting Peter about baptizing the Gentiles and then fellowshiping with

them and he explained everything that happened that he had and they all praised God and accepted that the Gentiles that salvation had opened to the Gentiles and then at the end of the chapter had said this verse 25 then departed Barnabas to Tarsus to seek Saul so we have to remember that this is a letter from Luke to Theophilus to support Theophilus is defense of Saul so this we really have to try to understand the connection a chapter 12 to this intention that Luke is writing and so he says here that Barnabas went to seek Saul and when he had found him he brought Saul to Antioch and it came to pass that all for a whole year they assembled themselves with the church and taught many people and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch and in these days came profits from Jerusalem unto Antioch so they're all in Antioch these profits come to Jerusalem are from Jerusalem to Antioch and there stood up one of them named adabas and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar then the disciples every man according to his ability determined to send relief unto the Brethren which dwelt in Judea which also they did and they sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul so Barnabas Sol Sol Sol goes Barnabas goes looking for soul he finds him this prophet comes and says there's going to be a famine and so they send relief to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Saul so that's the time it's at its at this time when when Saul is in Jerusalem about that time Herod the King stretched forth his hand to do evil to certain of the church and he killed James the brother

of John with the sword so you know he didn't do it personally basically what that's saying is he had James beheaded so he had to have James beheaded and because he saw that it pleased the Jews he proceeded further to take Peter also so we have to remember here that this is a Herod Agrippa and Herod is not a Jew he's uh he's an Edomite they Adhamiya so he's an Edomite and the Jews and the were not friends and the Jews resented the fact that this EDA might but according to the Roman politics was allowed to rule over them so they didn't accept Herod at the same time Herod is doing all he can to try to be accepted of the Jews so when he sees now that killing James please the Jews but he now wants to kill Peter as well in order to get into their good books then were the days of unleavened bread so it was at the time of the days of unleavened bread so they had the pass over there now in the days of unleavened bread and when he had arrested him he put him in prison and delivered him 24 quaternions of soldiers and this is where I was saying earlier where you know they were just feeling that Batman was just dealing with one police officer here a quaternion is four soldiers and it is for court onions of four squads 16 soldiers are are looking after Peter so it says here that he arrested him and put him in prison and delivered him to four squads or court onions of soldiers to keep him intending and it says here after Easter we know that Easter doesn't come into the church until three hundred years later so this is just a translation issue if we actually look at Easter we'll see it's the Greek word paske which actually means Passover so it's the Passover and they would refer

to the days of unleavened bread and that whole period that whole week as the Passover season so he's intending that after the days of unleavened bread are over to bring him forth to the people and

cut him so he doesn't want to execute him any key he knows not to execute Peter during the days of unleavened bread because the Jews are observing their their their feast but immediately after the feast he's going to behead Peter the way he beheaded James and getting the the good books of the Jews so so Peter then is surrounded by these 16 soldiers maybe they're in shifts looking after him and after Passover after the days of unleavened bread he's going to be executed now verse 5 is very interesting it says Peter therefore was kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him and then you know a lot of sermons will make light of this because if you drop down to verse 14 Peter it actually does get released and when we come down to verse 14 it says and when so he's knocking at the door and she says here and when she this is the the servant lady the servant girl that answers the door Rhoda when she knew Peter's voice he's not going to door who is it tells us Peter soon if you recognize his Peter's voice she did not open the gate for gladness she couldn't she couldn't believe it she ran in and told how Peter stood before the gate and they said to her you are crazy in verse 5 it says they're praying without ceasing and then when their prayers are answered and peter is released and he knocks on the door they don't believe it and she comes in she tells them Peters of the door say you're crazy you're mad

but she constantly affirmed that it was even so that it really was him at the door and they said so first you're crazy now it's not him it must be his angel so let's just say for let's just think about this we have this sense of superiority that you know if it was us and we were praying for Peter and he was released and he knocked at the door with all our prayers are answered open the door welcome Peter congratulation God's god be praised were so spiritual my question is this what if the early church is superior to us or was superior to us in their spirituality what if they're what if they were not crazy what if their response was the right response and we're the ones that are out of tune with God's Word so so let's read this again let's read this passage again and let's give the early church the benefit of the doubt let's not let's not just automatically assume that they're spiritually immature they don't know what they're doing you know you know Luke actually says that the Apostle Paul is with them that he delivered the aid to Jerusalem and so he's there with the Brethren in Jerusalem so do we assume that the Apostle Paul was in a spiritual imbecile as well let's let's give them the benefit of the doubt and let's read this passage carefully and see what it actually says so it says now that Peter was kept in prison but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him so the question we have to ask is what were they praying about what was their expectation because they just witnessed James being beheaded earlier Stephen was stoned to death now it's Peters turn are they assuming that if they just pray hard enough Peter will be released or is their expectation that

Peter actually will be martyred and the content of their prayers may be something else other than God we just you know we're Christians and we just want to have a good time we're Christians and we just want to be comfortable we're Christians and you promise that no matter what you'll never allow any harm to come to our physical flesh it's a word we're in treating you now don't let any harm come to Peter is that the way the early church thought or did they have a different expectation and were they more spiritually mature than us who just think Christianity is just good time good or is it about sacrifice and martyrdom and so here he says they prayed without ceasing and when Herod would have brought him forth so now the days of unleavened bread are over it's now time to kill him as he did with James the same night so it's the the next morning is going to be beheaded but that same night it says look what it says so his Peter in a panic is Peter concerned it says that same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers he's going to be beheaded the next morning and is he in a panic Izzy sweating is he freaking out or is he sleeping like a baby it's all good so that that that's how Peters approach to this is okay this is my time and he's bound with chains so there he is bound with chains and the keepers before the door kept the prison so you've got to so it's a four squads of four and so maybe they're doing this in shifts so the this set of four two are sleeping with him one on each side and the other two are at the door and so there's just no way and he's bound in chains so there's just no way he's getting anywhere but he's sleeping like

a baby it's like it's all good now why would he sleep like a baby remember how acts opened where Christ said to him and these are in red letters because these are the words of Jesus Christ so Christ says he you know they wanted to know you're going to restore the kingdom to Israel now and he said to them it's not for you to know that times are the seasons which the father has put in his own power but you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth and and Peter witnessed when Stephen was stoned to death that his face shone like an angel and he was in perfect peace and as they were stoning him to death he was blessing them and praying for them and Peter understood that that was fulfilling this scripture that they are to be not just not not witnesses but martyrs they are to be martyrs and every single one of them was martyred except for the Apostle John because that was what they were called to and so Peter is just very resolved this is my time and it to me it's quite clear that the church understands this as well and the content of their prayers is something different than what we would pray who we believe that nothing evil know no harm should ever come upon us that that if God allows anything to happen to us somehow God is unfaithful he's broken his promise but here's the promise that you shall be martyrs for me it's an honor it's a glory for you to be my martyrs and Peter's at peace so he says here again going back to verse verse 6 that when it was time for Herod to bring him forth the same night Peter is sleeping soundly between two soldiers

bound with two chains and the keepers
before the door kept the prison so he's
not going anywhere he knows that this is
that it's over james james was beheaded
before the days of unleavened bread and
now it's my turn there's no there's no
escape here and behold the angel of the
Lord came upon him and a light Sean in
the prison and you know what Peter is
sleeping so soundly that it's not just
hey Peter come on let's go I'm here
Peter's fast asleep so the angel has to
strike him on the side and raised him up
saying arise up quickly
and his chains fell off from his hands
and the angel said unto him gird
yourself and bind on your sign sandals
don't do up your shoelaces let's go and
so he did and he says to him cast your
garment about you and follow me and he
went out and followed him and he wasn't
he wasn't sure if what was really
happening was true which was done by the
angel but thought he saw a vision so
this tells you just how real the vision
that he had earlier in Acts chapter 10
was when the this sheet came down from
heaven three times it must have been so
real that when he came out of it he
realized well that was a vision and now
this is reality but it's so real that
it's like the vision so maybe this is
just a vision and he's just kind of
going with it thinking okay what's God
telling me now so he's not sure he
thinks it's a vision when they were past
the first and second ward so maybe these
are now the squad's there is now first
and second they came unto the iron gate
that leads unto the city so there there
are now they're free they just have to
get through this gate and then they'll
be in the city which opened to them of
its own accord and they went out and

they passed on through one Street and immediately the angel departed from him though the angel now departs from him and when Peter came to himself he said now I know for sure that the Lord has sent his angel and has delivered me out of the hand of Herod and that's another thing about the vision that he really didn't have the expectation to be freed so the way he's trying to explain it in his mind is this must be a vision because he's fully expecting to be executed and the church is fully expecting him to be executed and so now as he's being released he's responding the same way that church did that when he's banging on the door and the church is saying it's not it couldn't possibly be him in the same way when he is released he's thinking this can't be true because he's fully expecting to go down he's fully expecting to be executed and he's spiritually mature enough he spiritually mature enough to be at peace he believes in the resurrection that strongly it's like Abraham when Abraham is told to sacrifice his son Isaac and and he accepts it this is coming from God God cannot lie so clearly Isaac must be the God must be able to raise him from the dead because God can't lie and so when when Abraham comes to that resolution then God says don't harm the child and in the same way when Peter comes to the resolution that okay it's my time to be martyred then God says it's okay not yet now for sure God has sent his angel now I'm not confused anymore this wasn't a vision God really did send his angel to release me and has delivered me out of the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews so the Jews had an

expectation for Peter and Peter had that expectation as well he wasn't going but now he's been delivered from that expectation and when he had considered the thing he came to the house of Mary the mother of John whose surname was mark so you know it's like they're all there are always these brethren that there in the center there the brethren that are full of hospitality so if he's going to go somewhere like weirdo I know I'll go to John Mark's mother because that's where the Brethren will most likely be so he goes there where many were gathered and that that's what he expected that that's where they would be so many were gathered there together praying so they're all there praying and as Peter knocked at the door of the gate a damsel came to listen named Rhoda and when she knew Peter's voice oh she's there who is it it's me Peter she knew Peter's voice she didn't open the gate for joy she was just thrilled that is Peter again is showing you her their full expectation was for Peters execution and so now she's just sold beside herself with joy instead of opening the door she runs in to tell everybody else that Peters at the gate and they said to her you are crazy now again we have to ask ourselves are they crazy are they silly are they immature you know do we look down on them because you know we're just so spiritual where the Giants and their the spiritual midgets or is this an appropriate response that we're not expecting Peter at all to be released we are fully expecting them to be martyred and now you're telling us he's at the door no you're you're busier you've lost your mind but she constantly affirmed she had to really really really really really

really convince them that he really is
at the door that it was even so then
they said it's his angel but Peter
continued knocking and by the way as
he's banging down the door he's at risk
he's just been released and the noise
that he's making trying to get in is
gonna attract attention and he could be
rearrested so he continues knocking and
when they opened the door and saw him
they were astonished the word means
confused there he is this this doesn't
make any sense at all there's Peter this
is crazy

so it shows you these are not
spiritually immature brethren in all
likelihood the Apostle Paul is among
them and they have been praying
earnestly for Peter and now they're
confused and so we laugh and say all you
know this is the thing they're praying
for and they get it and they don't
believe no maybe they were praying for
something else maybe they really
understood the scriptures and they
understood that Paul Peter is going to
be martyred and so now let's pray that
he has a glorious martyrdom let's pray
that he have a faithful martyrdom let's
pray that God fill him with the Holy
Spirit so that he says exactly what
needs to be said as he's going down
let's pray earnestly for that and look
at the scriptures that Luke wrote that
they would be referring to that he would
know Theophilus would understand that we
need to understand look at Luke chapter
21 where Christ prom these are again
red-letter these are the words of Jesus
Christ but before all of this they shall
lay their hands on you and persecute you
so they've had that they've been
persecuted they've had to run for their
lives delivering you up to the

assemblies and into prisons this is what happened to James this is what happened to Stephen this is now what's happened to Peter they've been delivered into prisons being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake that is exactly what is happening and so they're looking at the scriptures and saying Jesus Christ hallelujah praise God Jesus word is true peter is now being brought before kings for the namesake of Jesus Christ the opportunity now is for a testimony for you so this is what they will be praying for that that the Holy Spirit would be would fill Peter so that he could have a faithful testimony that he could be a faithful witness as Christ was a faithful witness so please God enable him to seize this opportunity to be a faithful witness settle it therefore in your hearts not to meditate before what you shall answer this is why Peters fast asleep he's not there in angst and anguish thinking if they asked me this what will I say and mean how do I get out of this and and maybe I need to deny Christ and that way they'll let me go and none of that sleeping like a baby because he doesn't have to worry about what he's gonna say the Spirit will fill him and he'll say what God wants him to say and the church is praying earnestly that the Spirit fill him so that he will say what God wants him to say I mean we are such cowards we are such spiritual babies but we think highly of ourselves these are the words of Jesus Christ and this is what Peter and the early church were following settle it therefore in your hearts not to meditate before what you shall answer for I will give you a mouth and wisdom and so this is Peter's expectation this is why he's asleep because when he wakes

up and it's time for him to be beheaded
he's going to have an opportunity it'll
turn to him an opportunity for testimony
and so Christ will fill his his mouth
which all your adversaries shall not be
able to gain say nor resist which is
exactly how Stephens testimony was
described that nobody could withstand
him and it caused him to be put to death
and so this is now Peters expectation he
witnessed firsthand what happened to
Stephen and you shall be betrayed both
by parents and brethren and kins folks
and n friends and some of you shall they
cause to be put to death so James was
among this category he was put to death
and now Peter he's bound he's got 16
soldiers all around him he's in Chains
is in the depth of prison hara to set
his mind to does it please the Jews he
really wants to gain curry their favor
and so this is it p tourism is it
category to be put to death and you
shall be hated of all men for my name's
sake but there shall not a hair of your
head perish again this is why Peter can
sleep peacefully he knows that Christ is
the firstborn from the dead and Christ
has hair and so when he's resurrected
he'll have a body like Christ and he'll
have hair and that hair will last
forever so that hair will not perish and
now look at Luke 18 again another
passage dealing with persecution which
we would do we would be well advised to
pay attention to here in Luke 18 verse 1
Christ spoke a parable unto them to this
end that men ought always to pray and
not to faint and so they would be
looking at these passages they be
encouraging each other with this
understanding that men ought always to
pray and not and that's why they were
praying without ceasing that this is

what Christ said never give up keep praying saying there was in a city a judge which feared not God neither regarded men and there was a widow in that city and she came to him saying avenge me of my adversary and he wouldn't for a while so so in other words the adversary was getting his way this is important for us to see because this ties in with the book of Revelation where the beast is given permission to overcome the Saints and the Saints are crying out but Christ isn't answering it because the time of the Gentiles must come to the fall but while Christ is not yet answering not yet responding not yet taking vengeance we must always pray we must continue to pray and not lose heart we must follow the scriptures and so he wouldn't for a while but afterward he said with himself though I fear not God nor regard man in other words I don't have to answer to any buddy yet because this Widow troubles me I will avenge her lest by her continual coming she wearing me and the Lord said hear what the unjust judge says so that's what the unjust judge says and shall not God avenge his only elect which cried day and night unto him though he bear long with them so even though we find ourselves in these very difficult and unfortunate circumstances not because of any wrong that we've done but because we are faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ for his name's sake we find ourselves persecuted some of us are going to be put to death for this because of this we are crying day and night for God to be with us to support us to protect us if it be is well but mostly for us to be faithful and again if we read the rest of Luke 21 that's what Christ says to pray always that you

can escape these things and be faithful and stand before the Son of Man so he says here I tell you and then we need to another study explain what it means to escape all these things it's not out of fear and cowardice it's really to escape the deceptions and the distractions that could cause us to deny Christ and lose out on salvation but here he says I tell you that he will avenge them speedily he will he will respond however nevertheless this is really important that we read this carefully when the Son of Man comes shall he find faith on the earth

think about this Christ is saying when he comes he's concerned that because he doesn't take vengeance immediately because he allows the Saints to suffer will they lose heart will we lose faith and I think you know we have this or sometimes we're told no harm will ever come upon us God will always protect us and when we go into the future when when the scripture actually says that the beast is given permission to overcome the Saints in Revelation 13 we're going against the scripture when we're telling brethren no matter what you'll always be protected so brethren going to the future thinking no matter what I'll always be protected and then what happens to James happens to them or to their loved ones when the Son of Man comes will he find faith will they then give up and say well God has led us down or will they be like these brethren who are reading the scriptures understanding that some of you will be put to death and that in fact then is faith that when they're praying that Peter be faithful as he's put to death that is faith and that is what Christ is saying well when he comes will we understand the

scriptures and will we have the patience of the Saints to wait for our Lord and follow the scriptures and no matter how terrible it commits it gets we will always be faithful to the scriptures we will always be faithful to our Lord we're not expecting comfort we're not expecting that no harm will ever come upon us we are expecting that God's Word is true will be persecuted will be imprisoned some of us may even be put to death

and as long as it's God's Word and we are faithful not a hair on our head will perish and so this is the thinking of the early church let's go back now to Acts chapter 12 where it says Peter therefore was kept in prison but prayer was made for him without ceasing of the church unto God for him and clearly these are faithful brethren they're praying around the clock maybe it's in shifts maybe it's just constant everybody all the time but it's a constant prayer for Peter with the knowledge of the scriptures the real definition of faith they're praying according to the scriptures and so now in verse 14 it says when you and we just read this how she opens the door and they're just confused when he's standing there so let's just go back here it's over 16 they're confused but he beckoning unto them in verse 17 with the hand to hold their peace they don't know what's going on he doesn't quite quite quiet he declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison completely unexpected he didn't expect it he thought it was a vision they didn't expect it and he said go show these things unto James and to the Brethren it's really important that they understand this that the scripture says

some of you will be put to death not all of you and the Scriptures clearly Christ can intervene the same way Shadrach Meshach and Abednego Daniel others have been safe for God's purpose go tell these things to the Brethren and it's going to strengthen them that we have a purpose it's not that you know my name is Adrian and I'm a Christian and I can just sit back and do nothing and God is going to protect me that's not it it's we have a work to do and as long as God needs us to do that work he's going to protect us so that we can get that work done but part of our work is to be martyrs or it could be to be martyrs and so that's part of the work as well and whichever way it goes the same way shed recognition and Abednego actually said we're not careful to answer you in this matter okay you don't be it known unto you that you know our God can save us from the fiery furnace but if he chooses not to serve us to save us that's okay too because we know he's a faithful God so go and tell these things to the Brethren now remember Luke is writing all of this to Theophilus and and he begins this whole passage by saying Barnabas goes looking for Saul finds him in Antioch the profit rises up tells me as a famine is going to hit Jerusalem they raise aid and they give it to Paul and Barnabas who come back to Jerusalem and it was at this time when when when Paul and Barnabas are in Jerusalem that Herod now begins this whole process of persecuting the church and so Paul is here he's watching all of this peter is saying go and tell it to James this other James and other James and to the Brethren who have not witnessed this but Paul is right there with Barnabas in Jerusalem and then Luke

wants Theophilus to understand this because this is going to inform Paul's decisions down the road in fact when he writes to the Philippians when he's in prison in Rome he says he fully expects to be released even though he's in prison and possibly going to be sentenced to death because he would have been informed by this experience so it says go and tell these things to the Brethren and then he left and went to another place so maybe he thinks okay I need to go somewhere else because they're probably going to come looking for me right here just the way I knew to come here now as soon as it was day there was no small stir among the soldiers like they are panicking so you know no small stir means they are freaking out they have no clue what just happened

what was become of Peter and when Herod had sought for him so it's now him to get favor with the Jews he he's just looking forward to this may be the Jews are going to accept him finally so he's like going get Peter I want I want to I want to win grace with it with the 10 in favor with the Jews they couldn't find him he examined the keepers so there's 16 men 16 soldiers and he commanded that they should be put to death the same way when Shadrach Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fire they were untouched and the men that threw them into the fire the fire burned them to death so in the same way these soldiers that were there to do harm to Peter they're the ones who are put to death and then Herod went down from Judea to says areia and their abode now remember when this passage began that Herod said that he stretched forth his hand to vex certain of the church in fact what happens now

is he vexes his own army so instead of vexing the church he ends up killing 16 of his own soldiers and this is this chapter is now going to end with him being put to death him actually committing suicide in a sense killing himself so so the whole thing backfires and this is the patience of the saints that in Revelation it says he that leads into captivity shall go into captivity he that has an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit says to the to the st. to the churches this is the patience of the Saints and crisis in your patience possess your souls so we have to have this long view we have to understand that God is patient he will avenge us the enemies of God's people will be put down but the time of the Gentiles must come to the full and so we have to have this patients to understand that the evil that these these men do it's going to backfire it's going to come back their own heads and this is this is what God says he who has an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches so continuing now in acts 12 and Herod was highly displeased of them of Tyre and Sidon so he's left Judea and he's gone down into says araya and the scripture says these people hated him they hated him and so this way he's trying to be accepted even though he's the king he's frail he's a human being he's insecure he wants to be liked and he's hated and so he's trying to do all he can to be accepted he's an Edomite they don't accept him but they came so even though they hate him this is just human nature they hate it they hate this guy they can't stand him they came with one Accord to him so they all like the hey we hate this guy but let's all go to him why and having made Blastoise the

Kings Chamberlain their friend they desired peace so so even though they hate him they don't want to argue with him they don't want to fight him why because their country was nourished by the Kings country soso Judea had the grain and end of the wheat and the bread and and the food came from Judea into tyre and sidon so there's no way they can afford to be on bad terms with Herod even though they hate him so they made friends with his Chamberlain and and they want to get along with him and you know they hate him but let's pretend we love him so so Herod Herod is insecure they're insecure this is what Christ said you you seek favor from one another you you want to be highly regarded from each other but Christ that I don't seek favor from that Christ just salt the truth so here and upon a set day Herod look what he does a particular day Herod a raid in royal apparel so he wants to show them just how great he is he's a raid in royal apparel he sat upon his throne and he made an oration unto them so this is some great speech that he makes and the people that remember these people hate him they can't stand it they went behind his back they say all manner of things about him but in front of his face for the bread and the wheat the people gave a shout saying it is the voice of a god and not of a man so he just loved this they does they're worshiping him this he just craves this he he just wants to be accepted and it's what incident you know some of the most ruthless leaders are little insecure children inside and that's what Herod was an insecure child and the people gave a shout saying it is the voice of a god and not of a man and immediately the angel of the Lord struck him so remember

he did this to win favor with the Jews
he wanted their favor and then he's just
doing all he can to be impress them to
be accepted by them and he wanted to vex
the church instead he ends up vexing his
own army and now it ends up vexing
himself and immediately the angel of the
Lord struck him because he did not give
God the glory and he was eaten by worms
so some sort of terrible sickness
parasites maggots whatever inside him
just eating him up inside and he gave up
the spirit
but the Word of God grew and multiplied
so this is what we have to understand
that men set out to vex the church but
it was tertullian and you know
tertullian was basically an intellectual
idiot they called him a church father
not at all it was a heretic but he did
say something that was profound and what
he said was the voice of the the blood
of the martyrs is the seed of the church
so even though Hera did sacrifice James
even though Paul was persecuting the
church they had to they had to run for
their lives they were running everywhere
every time this kind of persecution
happens to the church it actually causes
the church to grow so we mustn't we must
see things the way God sees them and
this is that this is how the early
church understood martyrdom that it was
a blessing it wasn't it wasn't something
to be afraid of and run from it was an
honor in fact you have Christians today
who don't have a full understanding and
they're in the Middle East and they're
asking for they're begging for prayers
and one of the things they're praying
for is they're saying pray that our
martyrdom not be taken from us they want
to die faithful to Christ and they lack
understanding and then we who have

understanding no nothing must ever come upon us and that kind of nothing must ever come upon us Christ says brother shall betray brother and if we have this kind of mindset where we're just so full of fear we are setting ourselves up to become betrayers but if we on the other hand follow our Lord's instruction to fear them not don't be afraid of those who can kill the body but after they've done that there's nothing more they can do and not a hair of your head shall perish so we have to be really studying these scriptures and settling in is settling our hearts to say we will only fear god we will not fear what men can do to us we will only fear god and this is what we have to pray earnestly for that God will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we just have this calm and this piece and one thing we know Jesus Christ is the son of the Living God and that's what we want the world to know we want the world to know how wonderful how awesome how glorious Jesus Christ is and that's our honor that's that's our honor to declare to the world that Jesus Christ is the son of God and to invite men to repent and have a relationship with him and if we have to die in the process of doing that well the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church and we're happy to serve God our God our glorious elder brother our husband in this way so the word of the God the Word of God grew and multiplied and noticed now you know he ends chapter 11 saying Barnabas and Saul came to Jerusalem and now he ends this whole passage by returning to Barnabas and Saul he's writing to Theophilus he's right into Theophilus about Paul he wants Theophilus to understand how Paul was influenced how he developed how he

became the Apostle that he became and so Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem so they were in Jerusalem this whole time and they witnessed all of this firsthand and now they've returned from Jerusalem and when they had fulfilled their ministry they took with them John whose surname was marked now remember that when Peter was released from prison where did he go he went to John marks house or Sir John marks mother's house so clearly you know John Mark would have been there all the Brethren were there and so the indication that we can see here is clearly Barnabas and Paul were also there and so now it's time for them to leave they're going to take mark with them so that's the end of Acts chapter 12 certainly hope that you got a lot out of it and that I hope that you will look at the early church and the Brethren hear differently when they are praying earnestly without ceasing for Peter and then when he's released they're confused it's not because they lack faith in fact it's because they were full of faith that that wasn't their expectation and I think we have to change our expectations the scripture says all those who desire to live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution it's okay it's okay because we're seeing beyond this life we're looking into eternity we have eternity in us and we're waiting for that eternity to be revealed in us as we declare that Jesus Christ is the son of God so I'm looking forward to our study next week will resume on wednesday nights again and the glad that you could join us tonight and i'll just head over to the state the chat now and looking forward to some discussion god bless you jesus christ is

the son of god