



## DGM Message Title: I'm Not Dying Tonight

### Topic: How Do You Act in a Crisis?

**Message Summary:** When we really take God at His word, we start to have more “is this really happening” moments in our lives. God wants to give us those “pinch me” moments. In the middle of your crisis, will you rest? Are you a child of the King? Do you believe what He said?

#### **Scriptural References:**

- Acts 12:1-9 NKJV
- Psalm 97:1 NKJV
- John 21:18 NKJV
- Palm 119:130 NKJV

#### **Key Points:**

##### Acts 12:1 NKJV

- The grandson of Herod the great
- First Herod
  - Killed babies
  - Killed families
  - Lunatic
  - Cruelty was passed down
- You need to be crazy if you're going to harass people of the covenant.
  - “People are more violently opposed to fur than leather because it's safer to harass rich women than motorcycle gangs.” Alexei Sayle
- Herod only struck those who wouldn't strike back.
  - Nobody gets bigger by making other people feel small.

##### Acts 12:2 NKJV

- James was one of the original 12 disciples.
- James was one of the core 3 who Jesus always kept in.
- He was one of the leading generals.
- Herod struck at the heart of the Jesus movement by killing James.
  - It was politics and people pleasing.
  - When we care more about what people think than God, we start to become monsters.
- The devil was gaining momentum against God's people.

- We could never be brave if only good things happen to us.
- God wanted to show the world what His men and women were made of.
- Psalm 91:7 NKJV
  - Word from the Lord given to a soldier.
  - You + God = Majority
  - God's got me and God's got you.
- When situation arise and surprise us, we assume that the devil will take us out.

#### Acts 12:3 NKJV

- What do you do when your James dies?
  - People here, assumed that their Peter was next.
- Herod waited until this time because it would have the greatest psychological impact on the Church.

#### Acts 12:4 NKJV

- Jesus had just been crucified by soldiers. James had been beheaded by soldiers. Why should Peter's outcome be any different?
- Just because the past did not work out the way you wanted, doesn't mean God won't make your future a total surprise.
- High public season to break moral and growth of the young Church.

#### Acts 12:5 NKJV

- When James was put in prison, people prayed a light prayer and went along.
- When Peter was put in prison, everyone realized that one's office or pedigree could protect them.
- If they don't get serious with their God, they might be next.
- The church prayed constantly, frequently, earnestly, and with intensity.
- The more we pray, the less we panic.
- The Church was a sleeping giant.
- God was waiting on them to be consistent, frequent, and earnest in their approach.
  - Sick & tired of sick & tired
- When you finally want God more than anything else, God will make sure you're not disappointed.

#### Acts 12:6 NKJV

- The church prayed, but they didn't get immediate results.
- We give up too soon.
- The night right before Peter's execution...
  - ...he was sleeping!
  - How did sleep Peter sleep?
- John 21:18 NKJV
  - Peter had a conversation with Jesus 10 years before this.
  - Jesus told Peter, *WHEN you are old...*
    - In Acts, Peter was only in his late 30s...
    - Jewish tradition said that people aren't old until 50
  - Jesus predicted that Peter would be crucified
    - Only the Romans crucified... Herod wasn't a Roman

- When you really believe the jot & the tittle... you can sleep when others would be worried.
- There were 2 soldiers handcuffed to him, and 2 at the door
- There was no way out...
- But if you have a word of God over your life, even if He has to send an angel... you will come out on the other side!

#### Acts 12:7 NKJV

- It's not what you're chained to. It's the word that God has spoken over you that matters in your life.
- Psalm 119:130 NKJV
  - The word God had spoken followed Peter into the jail
  - Nothing could keep God's word from His child
- Peter was in deep rest in the middle of the crisis of his life.
- When you finally get God's Word into your heart, there is a peace that passes understanding.
  - It makes no sense.
  - People won't understand it.
- The criminal justice system had one plan, but God had another.
- As fast as Peter got up is as fast as the chains fell off.
- If you don't do your part, God can't do His.
  - Get up and do what God is telling you to do!
  - Are you ready for chains to fall off your life?

#### Acts 12:8 NKJV

- Get ready, we're about to do this thing!
- The angel told Peter to dress himself.
- Revisit John 21:18 NKJV
  - Jesus told Peter that someone else would dress him
  - It was clear that it was not Peter's day, yet

#### Acts 12:9 NKJV

- God didn't just do this to give Peter bragging rights.
- The purpose of the escape was for Peter to follow God closer.
- If you don't know the purpose of a thing, you will abuse it.
- Some of us, when we get a miracle, we just run off after and do our own thing.
  - God knows that.
  - Maybe that's why you haven't received your miracle yet.
- When we really take God at His word, we start to have more "is this really happening" moments in our lives.
- Peter thought it was unreal. How could this have happened?
- God wants to give us those "pinch me" moments.
- In the middle of your crisis, will you rest?
- Everything the devil intends for evil, God will work for good!
- Are you a child of the King? Do you believe what He said?
  - I know you lost your James.

- That doesn't mean Peter is next.