



Close to Home!

Date: May 14th, 2023

Text: Acts 12:1-10

Passage Summary: While to varying degrees the church throughout the ages has enjoyed seasons of favor and prosperity, there will also be times when the reality of sin, evil and suffering hit _____ to _____!

“It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.”

Acts 12:1-2

180 Degree Truth #1: See that when the reality of sin, evil and suffering hit close to home, more than ever we need to hit our _____ with a steadfast commitment to _____! (12:1-10)

“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.”

Acts 12:5

Application: Recognize that when it comes to a steadfast commitment to prayer...

- The darker the hour, the greater the opportunity for the _____ of God to be _____! (v.1-5)

Remember: When it comes to prayer, it is always too soon to _____, for while trials can be great, _____ is greater still!

- God is rarely _____, but He is never _____! (v.6)

Remember: When it comes to prayer, God does some of His greatest _____ in the 11th hour, so don't stop _____ in the 10th; instead, come to a place of rest as you quietly resolve to believe in your heart that whatever the outcome, “God’s got this!”

- When God’s _____ comes, it often unfolds _____! (v.7-9)

Remember: When it comes to prayer, if we are _____ up, we are much more prepared to _____ up and obey God when the answer to those prayers begin to come!

- God can _____ doors that would otherwise remain _____! (v.10)

“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.”

Romans 4:19

Remember: When it comes to prayer, dead ends become doorways when we not only face the _____, but _____ with God!

- It is essential we learn to _____ the _____ of God! (v.1-10)

Remember: When it comes to prayer, we come to realize that God has a _____ plan for each of our lives, a thought that in turn should cause us to want to make every day _____ like it’s the last!

Core Conviction to Live By: Resolutely determine that when the reality of sin, evil and suffering hit close to home in your life, that you will allow them to be reminders that you are one step closer to your true _____ in _____, a home and a hope that no trial or tragedy could ever take away!

“Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

1 Corinthians 13:12