

What To Do When ...

What Do I Do Now? (part 14)

**Ask the Lord to tell us ...
what he wants us to do.**

Jeremiah 42:3 CEV



1It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, **intending to persecute** them. 2He had James, the brother of John, **put to death** with the sword. 3When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. 4After arresting him, he **put him in prison**, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. **Herod intended** to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

5So Peter was kept in prison, **but the church was earnestly praying** to God for him. 6**The night before** Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. 7Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. **He struck Peter on the side and woke him up.** “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

8Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. 9Peter followed him out of the prison, but **he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening**; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

11Then Peter came to himself and said, “**Now I know without a doubt** that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating.”

12When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where **many people had gathered and were praying**. 13Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14When she recognized Peter’s voice, **she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it** and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!”

15 “**You’re out of your mind,**” they told her. When **she kept insisting** that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.” 16But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, **they were astonished**. 17Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell James and the brothers about this,” he said, and then **he left for another place**.

18In the morning, there was **no small commotion** among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. 19After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. ...

24**But the word of God continued to increase and spread.** 25When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.
Acts 12:1-25 NIV

When Bad Things Happen to Good People ...

❖ Move Toward God

Isn't it wonderful all the ways in which **this distress has goaded you closer to God?**

2 Corinthians 7:11 MSG

When Life Isn't Fair ...

❖ Pull Closer to Others

Let me give you a new command: **Love one another**. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other. John 13:34-35 MSG

When Faith Is Weak ...

❖ Find People to Believe With

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others **gathered together**.

Luke 24:33 CEV

They helped the believers **gain strength**. They told them to **remain faithful**. “We must go through **many hard times** to enter God’s kingdom,” they said.

Acts 14:22 NIRV, CEV

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NIV - New International Version

NIRV - New International Readers' Version

CEV - Contemporary English Version

CPV - Cotton Patch Version

G W V - God's Word Version

NLT - New Living Translation

MSG - The Message

NCV - New Century Version

Amp - Amplified Bible

WSV - Word on the Street Version