

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Christ of Every Crisis

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 12:1-17

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2294

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2021 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) We all experience trials and troubles, but every so often we experience a true crisis.
 - b) Acts 12:1-10
 - i) King Herod was a wicked man who wanted to torture the church.
 - (1) He had already put James to death, the brother of John.
 - (2) Herod now wanted to put Peter to death.
 - c) What do you do in times of crisis?

- 2) RESPECT THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PROVIDENCE (Acts 12:1-10)
 - a) God is working in a mysterious, inexplicable way.
 - i) Just because it doesn't make sense to us doesn't mean it does not make sense.
 - ii) We may have many questions.
 - (1) We don't live by explanations.
 - (a) Life is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be lived.
 - (2) We sometimes simply need to back off and see the hidden hand of God.
 - (3) Just because we cannot see God working doesn't mean He isn't working.
 - b) Romans 8:28
 - i) All things are working together; this is the sovereignty and providence of God.
 - (1) God works through both the good and the bad in life for His glory and for our good.
 - (a) We do not live by explanations but by promises.
 - c) Allow God to be God.
 - i) When you are in a crisis, don't demand to understand.

- 3) REQUEST THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S PEOPLE (Acts 12:5)
 - a) There seemed to be no hope for Peter.
 - i) Every door was closed except the door to God.
 - b) In a crisis, there is always prayer.
 - i) When there is no hope on the horizontal level, there is always hope on the vertical level.
 - c) The ministry of God's people is prayer.
 - i) The frequency of the prayer
 - (1) They prayed and did not stop praying.
 - (2) One of the great lessons about prayer is persistence.
 - (3) Matthew 7:7
 - (a) This Scripture literally says, "Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking."
 - (4) Luke 18:1
 - (a) We are to keep on praying.

- (b) God's delays are not denials.
 - ii) The fervency of the prayer
 - (1) The word for "without ceasing" may be translated "intensely."
 - (2) Jeremiah 29:13
 - (3) The Bible calls prayer "wrestling."
 - (a) Romans 15:30
 - (i) Prayer is referred to here as "striving," "wrestling."
 - (b) When we engage in real intercession, the devil will fight to oppose us.
 - iii) The fellowship of the prayer
 - (1) They came together to pray.
 - (2) Matthew 18:19-20
 - (a) God is pleased when His children pray, and He is more pleased when His children pray in fellowship.
 - (b) Nothing will bind a church together more than praying.
 - iv) The faith of the prayer
 - (1) Prayer was made unto God.
 - (a) They were not praying to one another; they were not praying to impress one another.
 - (2) The devil may mock at our schemes and laugh at our organizations, but he fears our prayers.
 - (3) When we pray, we're praying to God, who controls the universe.
 - v) The focus of the prayer
 - (1) They were praying for Peter.
 - (2) It was a prayer not only with intensity, but with specificity.
 - (a) Many of our prayers are so vague that we wouldn't know whether or not God had answered them.
 - d) Jeremiah 33:3
- 4) REST IN THE MASTERY OF GOD'S PEACE (Acts 12:6-7)
 - a) Peter was to be executed the next morning, but here he is sleeping soundly in the prison.
 - i) How could Peter sleep in such a crisis?
 - (1) He is no longer afraid of death.
 - (a) He has seen the risen Christ.
 - (b) A man is not ready to live until he is no longer afraid to die.
 - (2) He knows that God's people are praying for him.
 - (3) He is aware of God's presence.
 - (a) Psalm 121:4
 - b) Isaiah 26:3
 - i) Roll your problem onto the Lord.
 - c) Philippians 4:6-7
 - i) The prison guards thought they were the ones who were guarding Peter in prison, but it was God's peace guarding him.

- d) Take your eyes off the storm and put them on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 5) REJOICE IN THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S POWER (Acts 12:7-10)
- a) God was still on His throne when James was killed and when Peter was arrested.
 - b) Peter's deliverance came at the last moment.
 - i) The entire account of Peter's deliverance is marked by leisure.
 - (1) The angel wakes Peter up and tells Peter to put on his sandals and his garment, and he then walks out.
 - c) Acts 12:11-17
 - i) Prayer is never an excuse for laziness.
 - ii) There was no way for Peter to open the prison gate, but there was a way for the garden gate to be opened at the prayer meeting.
 - (1) We cannot change water into wine, but we can fill earthen pots.
 - (2) We cannot raise Lazarus from the dead, but we can remove the grave clothes.
 - (3) There are certain things we can do, and prayer should not be used as an excuse for laziness.
 - (a) 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) Acts 12:19-24
 - i) King Herod is stricken dead because of his arrogance and pride.
 - ii) The hidden hand of God can be seen through it all.
 - b) If you're in a situation and God doesn't deliver you, it is not because He can't.
 - i) God did not deliver James.
 - c) If God is not working according to what you can see, it doesn't mean that He is not working.
 - d) If evil seems to succeed, remember that the success of evil is only temporary.
 - e) If you are in a crisis:
 - i) Don't demand to understand.
 - ii) Remember the resource of prayer.
 - iii) Put your eyes upon God and rest in His love.
 - iv) Expect God's power to move in His own time and in His own way.
 - f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16