

**PRAYING THROUGH YOUR PROBLEMS**

**ACTS 12:5**

**INTRODUCTION**

**WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME AND AGE WHEN EVERYONE HAS SOME TYPE OF PROBLEM.**

**IT DOES NOT MATTER WHERE YOU LIVE, WHERE YOU WORK, HOW MUCH MONEY YOU MAKE, OR EVEN WHAT CHURCH YOU ARE A MEMBER OF, WE ALL HAVE PROBLEMS.**

**YOU CAN TAKE A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF EVERY AGE IN HISTORY, AND YOU WILL FIND THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN EVERY AGE.**

**ADAM AND EVE HAD PROBLEMS, NOT ONLY BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND GOD, BUT ALSO WITH THEIR CHILDREN. BECAUSE ONE OF THEIR SONS COMMITTED THE FIRST MURDER.**

**ABRAHAM HAD PROBLEMS IN HIS HOME BETWEEN HIS WIFE AND HIS HANDMAIDEN. AND EVEN WITH THE RULER WHO WANTED TO TAKE HIS WIFE FOR HIMSELF.**

**ISAAC HAD PROBLEMS IN HIS HOME BETWEEN JACOB AND ESAU OVER THE BIRTH RIGHT OF THE ELDER SON.**

**JACOB HAD PROBLEMS IN HIS HOUSE WHEN HIS SONS SOLD THEIR BROTHER INTO SLAVERY BECAUSE THEY WERE JEALOUS OF HIM.**

**MOSES HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AFTER GOD HAD DELIVERED THEM FROM BONDAGE.**

**DAVID HAD PROBLEMS WHEN HE TOOK ANOTHER MAN WIFE, AND ULTIMATELY HAD HIM KILLED IN BATTLE.**

**ALL OF THE PROPHETS, BOTH MAJOR AND MINOR, HAD**

**THEIR OWN SET OF PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.**

**ALL OF THE APOSTLES HAD PROBLEMS THAT THEY WERE CONFRONTED WITH DURING THEIR MINISTRY.**

**AND ALL OF US HERE, BOTH SAVED AND UNSAVED HAVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH.**

**(I). IN THE WORDS OF OUR TEXT, THE CHURCH HAD PROBLEMS THAT WERE CONFRONTING THEM.**

**(A). FIRSTLY, THE CHURCH HAD PROBLEMS FROM WITHOUT.**

**(1). THE CHURCH WAS STARTED IN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACE, JERUSALEM.**

**(2). JESUS TOLD THE CHURCH IN ACTS 1:8 TO BEGIN AT JERUSALEM.**

**(3). BUT JERUSALEM WAS HARDEN, THEY WOULDN'T EVEN HEAR THE PROPHETS, MUCH LESS THE CHRISTIANS.**

**(4). DON'T YOU REMEMBER HOW JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM AND SAID IN MATTHEW 23:37 "O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, THOU THAT KILLEST THE PROPHET, AND STONEST THEM WHICH ARE SENT UNTO THEE, HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED THY CHILDREN TOGETHER, EVEN AS A HEN GATHERETH HER CHICKENS UNDER HER WINGS, AND YE WOULD NOT."**

**(5). THEY HAD KILLED THEIR OWN PROPHETS, THEY HAD KILLED JESUS, AND NOW THE DISCIPLES WERE SUPPOSE TO GO THEIR A START A CHURCH.**

**(6). IT WAS A HARD FIELD TO WORK.**

**(7). SO YOU CAN SEE THAT THE CHURCH HAD PROBLEM FROM WITHOUT.**

**(B). SECONDLY, THE CHURCH HAD PROBLEMS FROM WITHIN WITH WHICH TO CONTEND.**

- (1). THE TREASURER OF THE CHURCH HAD BEEN STEALING MONEY OUT OF THE RECEIPTS AND HAD FINALLY COMMITTED SUICIDE.**
- (2). PETER, THE MOST PROMINENT LEADER OF THE CHURCH HAD DENIED THE FAITH AND DENIED THAT HE EVER KNEW THE LORD.**
- (3). HYPOCRISY AND LYING HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH WHICH THREATENED THE POWER OF THEIR WITNESS.**
- (4). THERE WAS RACIAL STRIFE WHICH CAUSED A MURMURING IN THE MEMBERSHIP.**
- (5). THEIR MOST FAITHFUL DEACON, STEPHEN, HAD BEEN STONED TO DEATH.**
- (6). THERE WAS A BOUNTY HUNTER BY THE NAME OF SAUL OF TARSUS WHO WAS TRACKING CHURCH MEMBERS DOWN TO KILL OR ARREST THEM.**
- (7). THERE WAS CONFLICT OVER WHO THE GOSPEL SHOULD BE GIVEN TO. PETER HAS BROKEN WITH TRADITION AND WAS PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO UNTOUCHABLES?**
- (8). AND NOW, PETER HAD BEEN PUT IN PRISON AND HEROD WAS PLANNING ON KILLING HIM TO MAKE A BUNCH OF RICH JEWS HAPPY.**

**(II). BUT THE CHURCH PRAYED THROUGH ITS PROBLEMS.**

**(A). NOTICE WHAT THE CHURCH WAS DOING IN ACTS 12.**

- (1). THESE PEOPLE HAD PRAYER MEETING.**
- (2). THERE THEY ARE WITH ALL OF THESE**

**INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS.**

**(3). ANY NORMAL PASTOR WOULD HAVE RESIGNED AND MOVED AWAY.**

**(4). MOST MODERN DAY CHRISTIANS WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP AND LEFT THE CHURCH.**

**(5). BUT THESE PEOPLE HAD A PRAYER MEETING.**

**(B). THEY KNEW THAT IT WAS TIME TO PRAY.**

**(1). THIS WASN'T A TIME TO QUIT.**

**(2). THIS WAS NOT A TIME TO RUN AND HIDE.**

**(3). THIS WASN'T A TIME TO DISBAND THE CHURCH.**

**(4). THIS WASN'T A TIME TO FIRE THE PREACHER AND HIRE A DIPLOMAT.**

**(5). THIS WAS A TIME TO PRAY.**

**(6). THEY KNEW THAT FACING PROBLEMS REQUIRED PRAYER.**

**(III). BECAUSE OF THEIR PRAYERS, GOD GAVE DELIVERANCE.**

**(A). YES, THEY PRAYED AND GOD ANSWERED (MATTHEW 7:7).**

**(1). THE PEOPLE PRAYED AT JOHN MARK'S MOTHER'S HOUSE AND THE LORD ANSWERED THEIR PRAYERS IN THE PRISON WHERE PETER WAS SLEEPING.**

**(2). THEY PRAYED AT ONE PLACE AND GOD ANSWERED AT ANOTHER PLACE.**

**(3). IT'S ALWAYS AMAZING TO ME HOW CHRISTIANS CAN**

**PRAY FOR SOMETHING OR SOMEONE THAT IS  
SOMEWHERE ELSE AND EXPECT AN ANSWER, BUT  
THEY DON'T EXPECT AN ANSWER WHEN THEY  
PRAY FOR THINGS AT HOME.**

**(4). THESE FOLK PRAYED FOR PETER OFF IN PRISON, BUT  
THEY WERE SHOCKED AND AMAZED WHEN HE  
ACTUALLY SHOWED UP AT THE DOOR.**

**(5). WE PRAY FOR AFRICA, AND WE BELIEVE GOD MOVES  
IN AFRICA.**

**(6). WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN THE HOSPITAL  
AND  
WE BELIEVE THAT GOD MOVES ON THOSE PEOPLE IN  
THE HOSPITAL.**

**(7). BUT MANY OF YOU ARE AFRAID TO PRAY THAT GOD  
WILL MOVE RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE WHERE YOU  
ARE.**

**(B). BUT ONE LITTLE GIRL HAD FAITH TO LOOK OUT OF  
THE DOOR.**

**(1). I WONDER IF RHODA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD  
ANY FAITH AT THAT PRAYER MEETING THAT NIGHT?**

**(2). SHE WENT TO ANSWER THE DOOR WHEN SOMEONE  
KNOCKED.**

**(3). SHE WAS EXCITED TO SEE PETER STANDING AT THE  
DOOR.**

**(4). WHEN SHE TOLD THE REST OF THE CROWD, THEY  
REFUSED TO BELIEVE HER.**

**(5). IT SEEMS THAT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO  
PRAYED,  
BELIEVING THAT GOD WOULD HEAR AND ANSWER  
PRAYER.**

**(C). WE NEED TO LEARN A LESSON FROM THE EARLY CHURCH.**

**(1). WHEN THEY HAD PROBLEMS, THEY HAD A PRAYER MEETING.**

**(2). YOU BETTER PLAN ON HAVING SOME PRAYER MEETING, BECAUSE PROBLEMS ARE BOUND TO COME.**

**CONCLUSION**

**BUT I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU that PRAYER WILL SEE YOU THROUGH YOUR PROBLEMS.**

**(1). MOSES PRAYED AND GOD SPARED ISRAEL FROM JUDGEMENT.**

**(2). JOSHUA PRAYED AND GOD CAUSED THE SUN TO STAND STILL.**

**(3). HANNAH PRAYED AND GOD GAVE HER A SON.**

**(4). SOLOMON PRAYED AND GOD GAVE HIM WISDOM.**

**(5). ELIJAH PRAYED AND GOD BROUGHT FIRE DOWN FROM HEAVEN.**

**(6). JONAH PRAYED AND GOD BROUGHT HIM OUT OF THE BELLY OF THE WHALE.**

**(7). PETER PRAYED AND GOD RAISED DORCAS FROM THE DEAD.**

**(8). THE THIEF ON THE CROSS PRAYED AND GOD GAVE HIM ETERNAL LIFE.**

**(9). THE CHURCH PRAYED AND GOD DELIVERED PETER FROM PRISON.**

**(10). PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED AND SANG SONGS AND GOD DELIVERED THEM FROM THE PHILIPPIAN JAIL.**

- (11). JESUS PRAYED WHEN HE WAS CONFRONTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE GROSS, AND THE ANGELS CAME AND MINISTERED UNTO HIM.**
- (12). AND HE CAME OUT FROM GETHSEMANE WITH A STRONGER RESOLVE TO GO TO CALVARY AND DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD.**
- (13). WHILE HE WAS DYING, HE PRAYED FOR HIS KILLER, "FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO."**
- (14). AND HE WENT ON AND DIED.**
- (15). THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB.**
- (16). HE STAYED THERE THREE DAYS BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.**

**ULTRA CONCLUSION**

**KNOW MATTER WHAT YOUR PROBLEM MAYBE, PRAYER WILL SEE YOU THROUGH.**