

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 12 12-25



Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are true of heart.
Psalm 125:4

Praising:

Tell the praise of him who called
you
out of darkness into light,
broke the fetters that enthralled
you,
gave you freedom, peace and
sight:
tell the tale of sins forgiven,
strength renewed and hope
restored,
till the earth, in tune with heaven,
praise and magnify the Lord.

Reading:

Acts 12:12-25
Herod and news of the prison
break

The picture of Peter left standing
outside the gate, underlines the
surprise of what has happened
for all concerned. The prayers of
the Christians inside the house

are answered in a far more
dramatic way than any of them
could have imagined. Though
quick to pray, in calling Rhoda
mad, the believers give away how
low their expectations for their
prayer actually were. The full
implications and consequences of
Peter's escape are brought home
by Herod's ruthless decision to
put the prison guards to death.
Herod's encounter with the
people of Tyre and Sidon reveals
the extent of the political and
spiritual power he is so anxious to
preserve. The historian Josephus
confirms the suddenness of
Herod's death in the spring of
44AD, and that it takes place
immediately after the people
hailed him as a god.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord as we come to you in
prayer, purify our motives and
raise our expectations

- that we may ask out of love
and compassion, not
selfishness or personal
concern
- that we may plead in
confidence, hope and trust
that your will be done in all
things
- that we may see your answers
to our prayers where others
explain them away

Father: as my own journey of
faith is an answer to the prayer of
someone who loved me enough
to pray for me, may I never omit
to pray for those I love, whose
journey has yet to begin. Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 19 May 2016