

Who Holds the Cards?

Acts 12

January 29, 2012

Summary: We left off last week with Peter sleeping and the Lord “in agony” “praying very fervently. “Let this lesson illustrate praying according to God’s will, praying with fervency,” not My will, but Thine be done.”

1. As you think on the sermon title, pray the prayers of scripture that opened this worship service.
Psalm 18:1-3, 34:1-8, 67:1-7, 73:25-28, 90:1-2, 103:8

2. A. Begin where we left off, in “a place named Gethsemane.” What strikes you about Jesus’ prayer?
Mark 14:32-36, Luke 22:39-46

B. What do we see in Peter’s life over this stretch of time, from Gethsemane to the early chapters of Acts and on to the end of his life?
Luke 22:45-46, Acts 1:12-14, 2:42, 3:1, 4:24, 6:4, I Peter 4:7

C. Where are you in your prayer life? Can God change you as He did Peter? Is that what you pray for?

3. A. When the Lord called the Apostles, he called two sets of brothers, Simon (Peter) and Andrew, and James and John, the “sons of thunder.” They become prominent, even among the twelve Apostles.
Mark 14:33, Luke 8:51, 9:28

B. What happens as Peter and John go up to the temple to pray? How did the authorities react to these events?
Acts 3:1-10, 4:1-3, 13, 18

C. What was the first thing Peter and John did when they were released?
Acts 4:23-31

4. A. Who seems to be in charge, holds the cards if you will, as the lives of the Apostles play out?
Luke 23:8-12, Acts 12:1-4

B. Who holds the prayer cards? What privilege do you and I have? What is Peter doing?
Acts 12:5-6

D. What are the results of the fervent prayer? What happens, even when our prayers are answered?

Acts 12:7-16, James 5:16

As a side note, who might have been at this prayer meeting?

Acts 11:29-30, 12:25

5. A. When prayer is answered, who does it depend on? What is the key to prayer?

Luke 22:42, Psalm 72:18, 116:1, Proverbs 15:29, John 9:31, I John 5:14-15

B. Who holds the prayer cards?

Mark 11:24, Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:10, 18

C. Do you say, why pray if God has it all worked out anyway? Was this Jesus' attitude?

Luke 22:42, Acts 4:25-28