

RHODA

Rhoda is a young lady who appears in Acts 12 during a time when the apostles and other believers in the church were enduring great persecution. The Apostle James (John's brother) had recently been killed with the sword and Peter had been arrested and placed under heavy guard. This all happened during the Passover celebration, and King Herod Agrippa was waiting until after the Passover to bring Peter out to public trial. The church had gathered to pray for Peter and right in the middle of all this persecution and fear, we are introduced to the servant girl, Rhoda in this story of God's miraculous power.

⁶ The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fasted with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. ⁷ Suddenly, there was bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸ Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. ⁹ So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So, they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. ¹¹ Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!" ¹² When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. ¹³ He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" ¹⁵ "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must

be his angel.”¹⁶ Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. -Acts 12:6-16

APPLICATION

Imagine that. The very thing they were praying for, walked right up and knocked on the door. It's funny however, that after being escorted by an angel out of maximum security, and through city gates that opened on their own, the place where Peter would be denied access (be it temporarily) is the house filled with believers who are praying for his release. Rhoda was so overjoyed to hear Peter's voice, she didn't even open the door. And Peter just kept knocking.

With the pace of life being so frantic these days, it's not hard at all to miss the daily miracles God brings to our doors. We can even get so caught up in the work of the church, that we miss the work of the Holy Spirit. If we aren't intentional, even our prayers and worship can become so repetitive and mundane, that they don't even require us to engage our hearts. Rhoda represents the joy and excitement we should feel when God answers our prayers. But we must be aware of His presence at the door with the answers.

DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION

- Think of a few 'minor' miracles you may have overlooked recently and take time to thank God for them.

- How can you build more times of reflection and gratitude into your prayer life?

- How can you keep your prayer life alive instead of letting it become too routine?

D6-CUSSION

Talk about some minor (and major) miracles that may have passed you by today.

- What stands out to you the most?

- What questions do you have?

- What is an application for your life?

PRAYERS & PRAISE