

Acts 12 The Sword, The Stone, And The Robe April 14 2009

Intro: Sermon Title Sounds Like a Disney Movie. What was your favorite Disney Movie? Growing up = Jungle Book. I also like Beauty and the Beast.

1. The Sword – Sometimes a saint’s life is surprisingly shortened.

Acts 12:1-2 (ESV)

¹ About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church.

² He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Psalm 116:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Revelation 2:13 (ESV) (Church at Pergamum)

¹³ " 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

Revelation 6:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

2. The Stone – Sometimes a saint’s life is set free for service.

Acts 12:3-19 (ESV)

³ and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

⁴ And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by

the church.

⁶ Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison.

⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands.

⁸ And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."

⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him.

¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

¹³ And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer.

¹⁴ Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate.

¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!"

¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed.

¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter.

¹⁹ And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

Acts 12:24 (ESV)

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

- **Earnest Prayer**
- **Escape Provided**
- **Excitable Person**
- **Examination Performed**
- **In The End, God's Purpose Prevails**

(A jailer doesn't have the last word, nor even a king; a doctor doesn't have the last word, nor any earthly authority – God has the last word!)

3. The Robe – Sometimes A Sinner Is Struck Down and Dies.

Acts 12:21-23 (ESV)

²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them.

²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!"

²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

(Josephus recorded this incident in more detail than Luke did. He added that Herod appeared in the outdoor theater at Caesarea. He stood before the officials from Tyre, Sidon, and his other provinces on a festival day dressed in a silver robe. When the sun shone brilliantly on his shiny robe some flatterers in the theater began to call out words of praise acclaiming him a god. Immediately severe stomach pains attacked him. Attendants had to carry him out of the theater, and five days later he died. — Tom Constable's Notes on the Bible)

Hebrews 9:27-28 (ESV)

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Revelation 20:11-15 (ESV)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Invitation: Short of the Lord's Return, you are going to die and face His judgment.

Not one of you knows when! But, you can know for sure that you are ready.

1 John 5:13 (ESV) ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.