

Cell Notes Acts of the Apostles

Sept 6th 2009 Acts 12. 1 - 24

Can you remember the story of the conversion of Cornelius. Check it out in Acts 10. How much did you remember?

Now read **Acts 12. 1 - 24**. *What do you make of this story? Do you believe it could have happened as described? Do you believe in angels and miracles?*

1. The biggest argument for the miraculous is that without the miraculous the whole Bible account becomes incredible. Jesus the Messiah is presented in the prophecies, in the accounts of his life, and in his own self-understanding as the One who has come to achieve impossible things in obedience to his Father. He leads his disciples to believe that they can achieve the impossible too, by faith and in obedience to the Father. The biggest miracle of all is the resurrection and if that didn't happen, according to Paul... we are the most pitiable deluded creatures.
2. Many of the Bible descriptions, including this passage, read like eye witness accounts.
3. Inexplicably wonderful things have continued to happen throughout history, right up to our own day.
4. What has most often caused me to doubt is the thought that, if God can and will do miracles, why are they so intermittent? Why so much suffering? Jesus prophesies hard times ahead for the church until he returns (Mark 13 etc) We are living between D Day and VE Day. Peter escapes from prison, but James is executed. The ancient enemy of God is still alive and kicking. Most of humanity, including, sadly much of the church still dwells in ignorance, impotence and darkness. We need to be open to the miraculous, but also to understand that the miraculous is the fruit of courage, goodness and faith, not a right.
 - *Pray for our Youth Work (Sept 13th)*
 - *Pray for Street Pastors (Sept 20th)*
 - *Pray for renewed courage, goodness and faith throughout the church. Be open for miracles.*