



An Impossible Situation  
Acts 12:1-24  
November 6, 2016

**Introduction:**

All of us at times have been in what we would call “impossible situations.” People, businesses, churches, and all other organizations sometimes find themselves beyond the proverbial eight ball, and many of those times our solutions seem to be limited. Well, that’s exactly where the early church finds itself in Acts 12. However, when the church began to pray, God took control and turned the situation into one of the most exciting moments in the history of the early church.

**I. God’s Power Is Best Displayed in Impossible Situations.**

**A. Herod’s Plan (Verse 1)**

1. Herod The Great
2. Herod Archelaus
3. Herod Antipas
4. Herod Agrippa I
5. Herod Agrippa II

**B. James’s Prosecution (Verse 2)**

**C. Peter’s Proceedings (Verse 3)**

**D. Peter’s Previous Prison Reputation (Verse 4-6)**

**E. Passover’s Provision (Verse 4)**

God’s power is best displayed in impossible situations. But the reason so many people never see God in impossible situations is because they live in the safe zones of life. They never trust God past what they can see. Most pastors and churches do not need the power of God because they can do everything they are doing within their own strength.

*William Carey:*  
*“Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.”*

**II. God’s Power Is Often Displayed When Saints Intercede.**

**A. The Church Was United in Their Prayer (Verse 5a)**

**B. The Church Was Urgent in Their Prayer (Verse 5b)**

**III. God's Power Is Determined in Infinite Sovereignty.**

**A. The Power of God is Sovereign in It's Election (Verse 6-7)**

**B. The Power of God is Sovereign in It's Execution (Verse 6a)**

**Tribulation is the foundation of great patience.**

**C. The Power of God is Sovereign in It's Economy (Verse 10)**

**God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves, but He will not do what we can do for ourselves.**

**IV. God's Power Is Often Demonstration in Individual Spirituality.**

**A. Peter Slept (Verse 6)**

**B. Rhoda Was Alarmed (Verse 12-14)**

**C. The Church Was Astonished (Verse 15-17)**

**D. The Soldier Were Afraid (Verse 18)**

**E. Herod Was Angry (Verse 19-23)**

**F. The Church Was Advancing (Verse 24)**

*John Stott:*

*"At the beginning of the chapter, Herod is on the rampage - arresting and persecuting church leaders; at the end of the chapter he himself is struck down and dies."*