

Peter's Escape From Prison

Peter had been a friend of Jesus. After Jesus had risen from the dead and gone back into heaven Peter spent all his time telling people about Jesus and about how wonderful he was.

Some people liked to listen to Peter, but some people got very jealous of him. They didn't like the way he was so popular. One of the people who got jealous unfortunately was the King; King Herod.

Now Herod got very Jealous of Peter. Nothing he did seemed to be able to shut Peter up. So he sent some of his soldiers with orders to arrest Peter and take him to the prison. He wanted to put him on trial the next day.

All of Peter's friends watched as he was taken away. They were very sad so they decided to meet together and pray. They prayed and prayed that God would rescue Peter from the clutches of King Herod.

King Herod ordered that Peter be taken to the prison and locked up in the strongest cell and that at all times he must be chained to two big and strong Roman soldiers, just to make absolutely sure that he could not escape.

That night Peter found it hard to sleep. The soldiers kept snoring loudly and the floor was uncomfortable and cold. In the middle of the night though the cell that Peter was in seemed to suddenly get much lighter. It was as if someone had lit a lamp, but although Peter looked around there was no lamp to be seen.

Suddenly though Peter saw something else. A man. A strange man. A man dressed all in white and sort of shining.
"Get up and follow me!" he said.

Peter thought he was dreaming! But when he moved suddenly the chains that were around his wrists and ankles came loose and he slipped his hands and feet out of them. As Peter watched, the door to his cell slowly opened and the man in white beckoned Peter to follow.

The guards were still snoring as Peter crept through the door, along the corridor, through another open door, and out into the courtyard. The man in white led Peter along a street, turned a corner, and then he was gone. Peter still thought he was dreaming. He expected to wake up and find himself back in the prison. But even after he had pinched himself several times he found that he was still out in the street. This was for real! He was free!

Peter ran as fast as he could to his friend Mary's house. He knocked on the door. All his friends were inside praying for him. When the serving girl saw it

was Peter outside she got so excited that she forgot to let him in but ran around the house shouting Peters at the door! Peter's at the door!

The others thought she had gone mad. Eventually though they went to look and there was Peter, glad at last to have been let in.

Everyone was overjoyed but Peter couldn't stay very long. He knew the soldiers would soon be looking for him. The next morning when the soldiers who had been guarding Peter woke up, I think you can imagine how surprised they were! The prison doors were all still locked. But .. but Peter was gone, vanished. They both swallowed hard: King Herod would be angry, very angry and they would have a lot of explaining to do!

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