

Power From Within & Without (Acts 5:17-26)

Today we hear about the second imprisonment of the apostles by the religious authorities. Luke relates the Sanhedrin was “filled with jealousy” and so they put the Apostles in jail.

Unfortunately, as we know from Scripture, jealousy can eat away at a person and cause him or her to do some very evil things. For example, Cain was jealous that God accepted Abel’s offering and therefore killed him.

Joseph’s brothers were jealous that their father, Jacob, favored Joseph. Therefore, they sold him into slavery to the Ishmaelites. Saul, the first ruler in Israel, became jealous of David when he killed Goliath. Therefore, he tried to do everything possible to kill him. And now, we hear that the religious authorities are jealous of the Apostles and put them in prison.

Most people struggle with jealousy in some form or another – jealousy over relationships, looks, talents, gifts, successes, etc. The best attitude to jealousy is gratitude. Thank God for the gifts He has given to the person. Additionally, pray for the person. It is difficult to pray for someone and be jealous at the same time.

After the apostles are put in jail, we hear that the angel of the Lord delivers them. The basic principle is that when you are trying to do God’s will, even though there may be difficulties, He will always provide spiritual backup.

As Christians, we have power from within (the Holy Spirit) *and* power from without (angels helping us). No matter what doors the world locks, God will find a way to open them.

For us today, there are a couple of things to keep in mind. First, everything we have is a gift. There is no reason to be jealous over others because their gifts, like your own, are meant to build up the Church and glorify God.

Second, while doing God’s will is not always easy, He will always provide spiritual backup. We have the Holy Spirit (power from within) and the angels (power from without) to guide us and protect us. May we always ask God for His grace in doing His will.

~St. Thérèse, pray for us!