

Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Easter

May 19, 2009

Scripture: Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-8; John 16:5-11

Reflection: In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when difficult things happen that are hard to see and understand it is only natural for us to have grief fill our hearts and have our faith shaken. However, we should never ask, "Where has God gone?" because we know that the Jesus-vacuum we feel will be filled with the spirit-presence within to guide us. Paul and Silas show us that while we wait we must pray and sing (which is twice praying) loud enough for others who are suffering to hear and public enough for our persecutors to hear. Our faithfulness to divine providence will bring others to Christ and give them hope.

The rub of discipleship happens in those "in your face" experiences of life, and our response, Jesus tells us, is what will convict us.

- Sin – We cannot turn our back on evil or close our eyes to sorrow, saying it is not my problem or it does not concern me. We cannot let it tire us or wear us down, embitter us or cause us to break down under the strain.
- Righteousness – We must renounce our righteousness and perhaps yield some ground. We cannot make a scene when we suffer injustice or insist that the law defend our rights.
- Condemnation – We must hold our peace. Endure persecution patiently. We get no praise for our achievements or sacrifices. Even our own personal dignity and honor is at God's mercy.



Suggested Action: Discipleship does not come cheap it will cost us no less than everything. Contemplate today that blank check that you signed. Then sing Francis Patrick O'Brien's song "You are all we have. You give us what we need. Our lives are in your hands, O Lord, our lives are in your hands."

Sister Rosemarie Gregorio, IHM
Scranton, Pennsylvania