

April 10, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

DURING THE NIGHT, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD OPENED THE DOORS OF THE PRISON

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Today's First Reading

The high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the Apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night, the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, "Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life." When they heard this, they went to the temple early in the morning and taught. When the high priest and his companions arrived, they convened the Sanhedrin, the full senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the jail to have them brought in. But the court officers who went did not find them in the prison, so they came back and reported, "We found the jail securely locked and the guards stationed outside the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside." When the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests heard this report, they were at a loss about them, as to what this would come to. Then someone came in and reported to them, "The men whom you put in prison are in the temple area and are teaching the people." Then the captain and the

court officers went and brought them [back to prison], but without force, because they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

ACTS 5:17-26

Reflection

It is fascinating to hear that the setting of this scene is a public prison and that it is at night when the angel/messenger of the Lord comes to the Apostles and opens the prison doors, setting them free. Confinement and darkness cannot prevent them from speaking about God's salvation offered to everyone. As directed by the angel, they went back to the Temple area and again taught God's message of salvation to the crowds. The temple guards found out that not only had the Apostles escaped prison, they were continuing to teach! The guards rounded them up again and returned them to the prison, however, this time with less force since they knew the people were ready to defend these prisoners.



Low Section of Man Against Sky
Photo by Pixabay

For Pondering

- Imagine yourself alongside the imprisoned Apostles being freed in the darkness of night. What are your words to your companions, to your God?
- You are told to return to the place you were captured and do the same thing that you were imprisoned for. What are your words to your

companions, to your God?

For Prayer

*I will bless you, LORD, at all times.
You have set me free.
You are my Savior.
Praise of you I shall declare all my life.
Amen.*

BASED ON PSALM 34

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