

## **20 04 20 Reflection**

### **Acts 4:23-31**

### **John 3:1-8**

Today's Gospel from John is that famous occasion when Nicodemus sought out Jesus and Jesus gave his teaching on the centrality of Baptism for the life of a Christian. In Baptism we are "born again" of water and the Spirit (v.5) and so become a new person. Most of us have no memory of our Baptism. However, at that moment we were irrevocably changed, and were united to Christ, and to one another in Him. We became a part of the Church, His Body on earth.

The First reading from the Acts of the Apostles) shows that as soon as St. Peter and St. John were released from being held by the "authorities" the community gathered and prayed. We can pray that prayer today in our own times; "And now Lord... help your servants to proclaim your message with all boldness, by stretching out your hand to heal and to work miracles and marvels through the name of your holy servant Jesus" (v.29).

The early Church gathered for prayer and their prayer was so powerful, that the house in which they were praying, shook (v.31). Although at this time, we cannot gather together to pray, because we are united to Christ in our Baptism, whenever we are praying, we are praying IN and WITH Christ as members of His Body on earth. Our prayer can be as powerful as that of the first Christians! So, let us pray in and with Christ for healing; for all those who are dealing with this virus face to face; and for all those who are suffering in any way at this time. May they experience the presence of Christ with them in their difficulties.

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