"Rattling Cages"

In our first reading, Peter & John had quickly garnered thousands of new converts to fledgling Christianity after healing a crippled man in the name of Christ; and this really rattled the cages of the elders and scribes. Readily acknowledging *"a remarkable sign was done through them, and we cannot deny it,"* they still could not bear to face the Truth -- least of all hear it from these *"uneducated, ordinary men."* So they responded by doing what they did best: they circled their pious wagons. Wanting to punish Peter & John but unable to figure out how without riling up *"the people who were all praising God for what happened,"* they called them in and issued *"a stern warning never again to speak to anyone in this name*." Focused primarily on their own self-righteousness, their own image, their own control, the way they handled the situation is a reminder of why Jesus had so often called out these erring shepherds.

Ah, but all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God… In our Gospel, Jesus appeared to *"the Eleven… and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised."* Even after walking with Jesus for three years, while they saw Him as the Messiah, they still had a hard time accepting reports of His Resurrection; so Jesus stepped in to personally rattle their cage a bit.

As the adage goes, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." That is certainly true of the human heart. Rather than acknowledge our own shortcomings, it is easier for us look down our pious noses at the pitiful messenger and disbelieve the message staring us in the face. Likewise, (because we are so enlightened) it's easy for us to pick & choose which Church teachings we accept and which ones we ignore…

Today, understand that when your cage gets rattled, it just might be Jesus is trying desperately to get your attention…

Peace,

Dcn Ron

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http://usccb.org/bible/readings/041820.cfm