

Daily Homily
St. Vincent de Paul, priest
Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time, Monday
27 September 2021
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Well, here we are with minor prophet Zechariah. While many of the prophets are about doom and gloom. Zechariah is a prophet of encouragement. After their exile is over, and the people of God are now returning to rebuild their holy city, Jerusalem, they are overwhelmed at the task at hand. Zechariah is the voice of encouragement, motivation, vision, and hope.

And he offers this image of the Lord... the Lord is intensely jealous. Can God be jealous? After all, we consider jealousy to be a flaw, to be a sin even. So can God be jealous? The answer of course is, "yes." Especially if we put the word jealousy in the right context.

Jealousy here means that the Lord has an undivided, unwavering, undying fidelity to His people. God wants to protect and preserve His people. He does not want to see them come to ruin again. So anything that works against this, God does not sit idly by, uncaring, cold, or distant. God steps in to overturn and undo what causes harm especially from the false gods that His people are apt to choose over Him. Intense jealousy is also about intense love.

So do you make God jealous? It may come about when you have a constant worry about something, so pressing concern that you think no one is going to be able to help you resolve it or overcome it, not even God, the god of self-reliance instead of trusting in the one true God... would make God jealous.

Is there something more important to you that takes priority over prayer time, Mass time, time in service to others? The gods we place as number one in our life over the One, true God ... would make God jealous.

Is there something in the Church teachings that we would rather not listen to or adhere to, the god of "I know better," is the type of thing that would make God jealous.

Accept God's love today... a love that is undivided, unwavering, faithful without fault, jealous even, without fail.