



# Daily Reflections

**August 26, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 23: 1-12**

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying,  
"The scribes and the Pharisees  
have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.  
Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you,  
but do not follow their example.  
For they preach but they do not practice.  
They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry  
and lay them on people's shoulders,  
but they will not lift a finger to move them.  
All their works are performed to be seen.  
They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.  
They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues,  
greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.'  
As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.'  
You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers.  
Call no one on earth your father;  
you have but one Father in heaven.  
Do not be called 'Master';  
you have but one master, the Christ.  
The greatest among you must be your servant.  
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

# **Our Scripture Reflection**

Using the Pharisees as an example of hypocrisy, Jesus said of them, "All their works are performed to be seen." The Pharisees had looked holy on the outside but their hearts were filthy and mean-spirited. They lacked humility. Even though they were the religious leaders of the day, Jesus told His disciples not to follow their example.

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## **Food for your Journey**

There is an old ditty that goes: "It needs more skill than I can tell/To play the second fiddle well."

In a similar vein, Leonard Bernstein was once asked which instrument was the most difficult to play. He thought for a moment and then replied, "The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm — that's a problem. And if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony."

—<http://elbourne.org/sermons/index.mv?illustration+2803>. Retrieved May 28, 2008.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, Help me to live my faith to the fullest despite the cost. In so doing, may I draw people to You. Amen.