



# Daily Reflections

## October 13, 2017

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### Scripture

#### **Joel 1: 13-15-2: 1-2**

Gird yourselves and weep, O priests!  
wail, O ministers of the altar!  
Come, spend the night in sackcloth,  
O ministers of my God!  
The house of your God is deprived  
of offering and libation.  
Proclaim a fast,  
call an assembly;  
Gather the elders,  
all who dwell in the land,  
Into the house of the LORD, your God,  
and cry to the LORD!  
Alas, the day!  
for near is the day of the LORD,  
and it comes as ruin from the Almighty.  
Blow the trumpet in Zion,  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all who dwell in the land tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming;  
Yes, it is near, a day of darkness and of gloom,  
a day of clouds and somberness!  
Like dawn spreading over the mountains,  
a people numerous and mighty!

Their like has not been from of old,  
nor will it be after them,  
even to the years of distant generations.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

The Prophet Joel speaks words of judgment against the entire people of Judah: priests, people and king. All had turned away from the Lord through their sins. Joel's words are meant to heal the people IF they humble themselves and repent. God always offers us a way back to Him even when we turn our backs to Him.

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## **Food for your Journey**

To return is to repent, as noted above. Many people begin this process by saying, "I'm sorry."

Often, however, it's an empty expression. It's not much better than other such expressions, like: my bad, mistakes were made, oops, excuse me, pardon me and so on.

How does one truly return or repent? It depends, of course, on to whom the offense was given, the magnitude of the offense and the damage caused by the offense.

Generally, a person who is truly sorry understands just what -- exactly -- is needed to make amends. You've hurt your spouse? You know what you need to do, right? You offend God, you also know what needs to be done, including a cessation of the offending behavior.

Whimsical responses to the unfinished statement, "Nothing says 'I'm sorry' like ..." include: chocolate, flowers, a tuna casserole, cash, cupcakes or a Home Depot gift certificate.

What really says "I'm sorry," however, is to stop doing the bad stuff, and begin doing the good stuff.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, I ask forgiveness for the many times that my sins violate the love You gave me through the sacrifice of Your life. May Your love move my heart to repentance and sincere change. Amen.