



# Daily Reflections

**June 8, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Hosea 11: 1-9**

Thus says the LORD:

When Israel was a child I loved him,  
out of Egypt I called my son.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
who took them in my arms;

I drew them with human cords,  
with bands of love;

I fostered them like one  
who raises an infant to his cheeks;

Yet, though I stooped to feed my child,  
they did not know that I was their healer.

My heart is overwhelmed,  
my pity is stirred.

I will not give vent to my blazing anger,  
I will not destroy Ephraim again;

For I am God and not a man,  
the Holy One present among you;

I will not let the flames consume you.

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Few people stop to think of God as a loving parent whose heart is broken by our sins. But is that not the essence of sin, rejecting the incredible love that

God shows us over and over again? Think about this: In that moment before you are about to commit another sin, picture Our Father as a loving parent whose heart you are about to break by that sin.....is that enough to stop you???

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## **Food for your Journey**

John Ortberg and his wife have three small children. As you might guess, when they go out to eat, there is only one place they ever want to go, and it is "the shrine of the golden arches." He said his children seem to be convinced that they have a McDonald's-shaped vacuum in their souls. He said the kids always want the same thing. It's a combination of the food -- about which they really don't much care -- and a little prize. It's not much of a prize, really, just some cheap little plastic thing, but in a moment of marketing genius, the folks at McDonald's gave it a particular name. They call it the Happy Meal. It is "the meal of great joy." You aren't just buying chicken McNuggets and a tiny plastic Hercules ring, you're buying happiness.

He says that every now and then he tries to talk them out of it. He tells them to order whatever they want and he will give them a quarter so they can buy their own trinket and everyone will come out ahead. But the chant goes up, "We want a Happy Meal. We want a Happy Meal." Other customers stare at the skinflint of a father who won't buy his kids the meal of great joy.

So, he buys them the Happy Meal. And it makes them happy, he says, for about a minute and a half. The problem is that the happy wears off. The contentment doesn't last. He says that you never hear of a young adult coming back to his parents and saying, "Gee, Dad, remember that Happy Meal you gave me? That's where I found lasting contentment and lifelong joy. I knew if I could just have that Happy Meal, I would be content for a lifetime, and I am. Thank you. There'll be no need for therapy for this boy." In fact, the only one that Happy Meals bring real happiness to is McDonald's. You ever wonder why Ronald McDonald has that stupid grin on his face? Twenty billion Happy Meals, that's why. Now, let me share this with you in his words.

You would think, kids being fairly bright these days, that sooner or later they would catch on to this deal and say, "You know, I keep getting these Happy Meals and they don't give me lasting happiness, so I'm not going to be a sucker any more. I'm not going to set myself up for frustration and

disappointment any more." But it never happens. They keep buying Happy Meals and they keep not working.

Of course, only a child would be so foolish. Only a kid would be so naive as to think that contentment could be acquired through some kind of external acquisition. Only someone very young would have a high enough stupid quotient to believe that lasting happiness could come by a change in external circumstances. Right?

The truth about human beings is that as we grow up, we don't get any smarter; our Happy Meals just keep getting more expensive. [But] the world around us tells us that happiness is always just one Happy Meal away.

--James A. Harnish. "Finding God in  
Strange Places."

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Heavenly Father, You love me more than I could ever imagine. You showed the depth of Your love by sending Your only Son into this world Who gave His life for me on the cross. Forgive and heal

me, Lord. Make me aware of Your tender love each time that I am about to turn against You. May I stop before I act, and instead, do something good for someone. Amen